

# Boeseman's Rainbow "Lake Aitinjo"

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*Melanotaenia boesemani* "Lake Aytinjo"

By John Moyles

The Boeseman's Rainbowfish , *Melanotaenia boesemani*, was described by Allen and Cross in 1980. They are found in the Vogelkop Peninsula of Western New Guinea. They are found only in the waters and tributaries of Lakes Ayamaru, Hain, and Aitinjo.



Other common names they are known by include Bicolor Rainbow fish and Boesemani Rainbowfish.

Males have a colorful blue head that fades into an orange tail. Females are not as colorful. *Melanotaenia boesemani* are typical rainbows and show the distinct “rainbow characteristics”, including large eyes, a deeply forked mouth, and two dorsal fins.

The Boeseman's Rainbowfish is listed on the IUCN red list as endangered due to over harvesting and habitat loss. Restrictions of the trade of these fish have been put in place by the New Guinea government in an effort to prevent over-harvesting and to increase life expectancy.

They are a schooling fish that does best in a planted aquarium with plenty of room to swim. Dark substrate is preferable to light substrate since the gravel may intensify their. They enjoy swimming and do best in a tank that is at least 4 feet long. They are an omnivore and should be fed a mixed diet of prepared flakes, frozen, and live.

These rainbows spawn on moss throughout the course of several days. The fry hatch after six or seven days and require small pieces of live food, powdered flake food or commercial fry food.