THE ULTIMATE VACATION AQUARIUM CHECKLIST

Before leaving for vacation (no less than one week before departure):

- [ ] Perform a water change
- [ ] Clean pumps *(do not forget your ATO pump)*
- [ ] Clean float switches and water sensors
- [ ] Ensure all electrical cords are correctly labeled
- [ ] Ensure temperature probes are secured and will not move or come out of the water
- [ ] Ensure that backup batteries are adequately charged and in working condition *(a better option is an emergency generator)*
- [ ] Monitor tank temperature to ensure that heaters are working properly
- [ ] Ensure your system has two heater thermostats *(NEVER connect an unmonitored heating rod to a controller without having a second thermostat)*
- [ ] Ensure cooling fans are working properly
- [ ] Ensure that leak detector*(s)* are in good working condition
- [ ] Purchase inexpensive web cameras and place them outside and inside the sump cabinet
- [ ] Give a friend in the hobby a heads up that you are leaving in case of emergency
- [ ] Show your tank sitter what to do in person or provide them with prerecorded instructions
- [ ] Email your tank sitter with written instructions on how to care for your tank
- [ ] Perform a power-loss test to ensure that your tank equipment, sump capacity, and backup battery are working correctly

Ensure your controller configuration is working correctly and alarms are working correctly

TIP: Do not overuse the audible alarm. Remember that you are not there to turn off the beeping sound, which could be annoying to neighbors.

- [ ] Leak Alarm
- [ ] Skimmer cup or waste collector alarm
- [ ] Water in sump too high alarm
- [ ] Temperature too high or too low alarm
- [ ] ATO pump ran the too long alarm
- [ ] ATO pump has not run once in the last 24 hours
- [ ] Take advantage of power monitoring features on the controller to ensure that the return pump and heaters are working correctly.

Few days before leaving:

- [ ] Portion out food in baggies and always ensure to make extra in case of emergency
- [ ] If you are going during the summer or winter, check the extended forecast and adjust your home thermostat
- [ ] Make extra saltwater just in case
- [ ] On the night before leaving, empty out the skimmer collection cup or waste collector.
- [ ] Top off your liquids
- [ ] Above all, resist the urge to change things or clean one last pump!

During vacation:

- [ ] Monitor your tank using the web cameras
- [ ] Monitor your tank using the controller app
- [ ] NEVER make changes to your controller configuration unless it is ABSOLUTELY necessary
- [ ] NEVER update your controller firmware remotely

After returning from vacation:

- [ ] Clean the aquarium's glass from excess algae growth
- [ ] Visually inspect your aquarium and ensure the fish are okay with no signs of stress
- [ ] Do a water change, if needed
- [ ] Measure salinity
- [ ] Please take a deep breath, knowing that it all went well!