reef builders Ideal Parameters for Reef Aquariums

Parameter	Aquarium Recommendations	Ocean Values
Calcium	380 - 450 ppm	420 ppm
Alkalinity	8 - 12 dKH / 2.86 - 4.29 meq/L	7 dKH / 2.5 meq/L
Magnesium	1200 - 1400 ppm	1280 ppm
Phosphate	0.01 - 0.03 (<i>Preferred</i>)/ 0.01 - 0.1 ppm (<i>Tolerable</i>)	0.005 ppm (typical but varies)
Nitrate	1 – 10 ppm (Preferred) / 1 – 20 ppm (Tolerable)	Less than 0.1 ppm (typical but varies)
Nitrite	0.0 ppm typically	Less than 0.0001 ppm (typical but varies)
Ammonia	0 ppm	Less than 0.1 ppm (typical but varies)
Salinity	1.023 - 1.026 SG / 32 - 35 ppt	1.025 - 1.027 SG / 34 - 36 ppt
Temperature	76° - 80° (Must be kept stable)	Variable
pH	8.1 - 8.3 (<i>Preferred</i>) / 7.8 - 8.4 (<i>Tolerable</i>)	8.1 - 8.3 (Varies in lagoons)
ORP	250 - 400 mV	Variable
lodine	0.06 ppm	0.06 ppm (Varies in lagoons)
Strontium	7 - 9 ppm	8 ppm
Iron	Below Kit Detection	0.00006 ppm
Boron	Less than 10 ppm	4.4 ppm
Silica	Less than 1 ppm (Lower if diatoms are a problem)	Less than 0.06 - 2.7 ppm