



AQUATICA

DUELLUM

RULEBOOK

Game by Ivan Tuzovsky





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ABOUT THE GAME

In Aquatica: Duellum, the players become rulers of two underwater kingdoms *the Protectorate of Turtles* and *the Serene Republic of Calmari*. After decades of turbulence and strife, it is time to unite the underwater world under the fin or tentacle of a single ruler!

Throughout the game, you will give orders to your Mercenaries, call upon your Helper Animals, and conduct research in the depths of the sea at Locations you control in order to gather the resources you need to achieve your goals.

COMPONENTS

Common components

- 1 Leadership Board
- 2 Vortex Board
- 3 40 Location Cards
- 4 16 Mercenary Cards
- 5 4 Double-sided Goal Tokens
- 6 12 Wild Manta Minis
- 7 Manta Leader Standee
- 8 First Player Token

Player components

- 9 2 Personal Player Boards: Turtles and Squids
- 10 16 Action Cards (2 sets of 8 cards each)
- 11 8 First Achievement Tokens (2 sets of 4 tokens each)
- 12 8 Second Achievement Tokens (2 sets of 4 tokens each)
- 13 4 Turtle Miniatures
- 14 4 Squid Miniatures
- 15 2 Leader Standees (1 for each player)





GAME SETUP

Common Setup

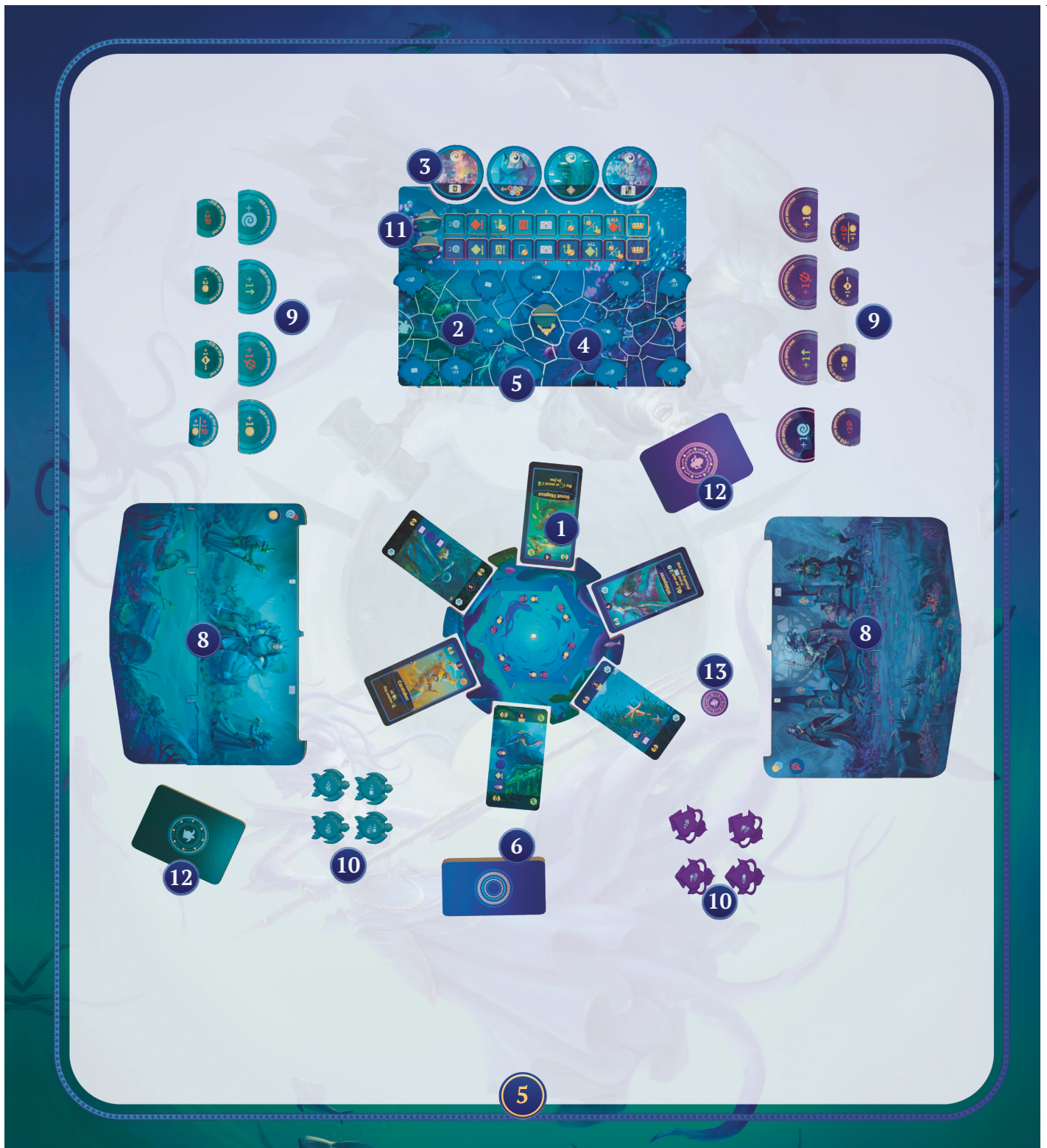
- 1 Place the **Vortex Board** on the table in reach of all players.
- 2 Place the **Leadership Board** next to it.
- 3 In the special slots along the top edge of the **Leadership Board**, place all **four Goal Tokens** with a random side up. For your first game, we recommend using the sides of the Goal Tokens marked with 🐢.
- 4 Place the **Manta Leader** standee in the central area of the **Aquatica World Map** on the **Leadership Board**.
- 5 Turn the **Wild Mantas** face down and shuffle them thoroughly. Then, randomly place them on the 🌿↑ spots on the world map and flip them on their ready side (belly-side up).
- 6 Combine the **Location and Mercenary Cards** into one deck and shuffle it thoroughly. Then, randomly place six cards from this deck into the slots of the **Vortex Board**, and place the deck anywhere on the table where it is convenient for any player to draw cards from.
- 7 Decide who will play as which faction — **the Protectorate of Turtles** and **the Serene Republic of Calmari**. You can do this randomly or by agreement among the players.
- 8 Take the **Personal Player Board** corresponding to your faction and place it in front of you.

Player Setup

- 9 Place eight **First and Second Achievement Tokens** next to your player board.
- 10 Place four **Helper Animals** — Turtles or Squids — next to your Player Board belly side up.
- 11 Place your **Leader Standee** on the starting point of the Crown Track on the **Leadership Board** (this point is marked with the symbol of your faction).
- 12 Take all eight **Action Cards** of your faction into your hand.

Now, toss the First Player Token **13**. The upper side will determine the first player. You're ready to begin the game!





GOAL OF THE GAME

Your goal is to convince the peoples of Aquatica to join your alliance and bring peace, justice, and unity to the fragmented world. This can be achieved in three ways:

- 1 Attract the Manta Leader to your kingdom. If the Manta Leader Standee reaches the rightmost/leftmost territory on the map, you **win instantly**.
- 2 Obtain the “Support of 9 Crowns”. **Instant victory**.
- 3 Have the most Prosperity Points by the time a player completes the four Sacred Goals.



CARDS AND BOARDS ANATOMY

Location Cards and Mercenary Cards

On the vortex Board, you will encounter two types of cards: Locations and Mercenaries. During the course of the game, you can conquer or buy any of them.

As you can see, both Locations and Mercenaries have types. There are five types of Locations



and four types of Mercenaries



Leadership Board

The Leadership Board represents what you need to do to finish the game. You can see:

- 1 The Aquatica World Map with a Manta Leader standee in the middle. By moving the Manta Leader towards one of the borders of the map, you are moving towards one of the victory conditions. You can also find Wild Mantas on the map.
- 2 Two Crown Tracks (one for each faction), representing the “Support of 9 Crowns” victory condition.
- 3 Four goals on top of the board, representing the Sacred Goals victory condition.



Player Boards and Vortex Board

On your Player Boards, you will be collecting Locations, then sliding them up to exploit them for their resources (see “Activate a Location” on page 14).

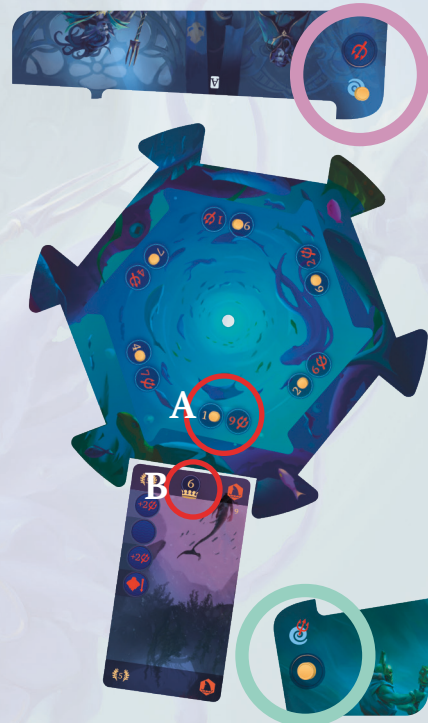
These Locations are bought or conquered from the Vortex Board, which is a dynamic market.

There are two factions in the game and the rules of how you buy/conquer Locations from the vortex are different for each of them:

If you play for Squids, you pay the number of coins shown on the Vortex Board (A) to buy Locations or pay a number of tridents indicated by the top-central bubble (B) on a Location or Mercenary Card to conquer the Location or Mercenary.

If you play for Turtles, you pay the number of tridents shown on the Vortex Board (A) to conquer Locations or pay a number of coins indicated by the top-central bubble (B) on a Location Card to buy the Location.

See more on how to buy and conquer Locations at page 10.





HOW TO PLAY

The players take turns until one of the end-game triggers is met. During their turn, players must do one **main action** and may also perform an unlimited amount of **additional actions**. These actions may be performed in any order you choose, **but you can't divide any action to perform other actions in the middle of the first started action**. When you have finished all your actions for your turn, it passes to your adversary.

Main Actions

Each turn, a player must take a **main action** — play an Action Card from their hand and fully or partially resolve its effect according to their choice.

You are not obligated to execute the entire action and can decide how extensively you want to use the card's effects (but at least one of its effects must be performed at least partially; you cannot play the card just to get rid of it).

You can choose to play or skip the effects of the card in the order they are listed on the card. If the card says “in any combination”, then you can perform its actions in any sequence.

You can interrupt your main action only by reinforcing it with a resource (coins or tridents) (see page 9) or with an Achievement Token reinforcement (see page 15).

***Please Note:** If you have played Aquatica before, you may have noticed that previously, performing the main action was mandatory (except for scouting). In Aquatica: Duellum, you have more freedom in your actions. However, remember that skipping actions is often not very advantageous.*

Additional Actions

Before or after the main action, you can perform any number of additional actions:

- 1 Play one Mercenary Card that you have obtained on a previous turn.
- 2 Activate any number of effects from your faction's Helper Animals: Wild Mantas, Turtles, or Squids.
- 3 Activate any number of effects from the current top depth level on Locations on your Player Board (you can use more than one action from each Location per turn if you can cleverly combine main and additional actions).
- 4 Declare that you have achieved a goal (see page 15).
- 5 Gain a support effect on the Crown Track when you advance along it.

You can see the description of all actions in the “Additional Actions” section on page 14.







Important! The effect of an Action Card cannot be interrupted by the execution of additional actions. However, using resources to support an action is not considered an additional action.

Important! You cannot split an additional action either. For example, if you are playing a Manta Helper that has 2 ↑ you cannot split them with another effect.

Gaining and Spending Resources.


In Aquatica: Duellum, there are only two types of resources: coins  and tridents (power) . The former represents your ability to buy Locations and Mercenaries. The latter represents the ability to compel allies and opponents to follow your will.

You can acquire resources from Action Cards, Location Cards, and Mantas. Remember this main point: **resources are not carried over to the next turn. They are used during the current turn or are lost.**

Using resources is the only activity you can do in the middle of another action!

Helper Animals

Each player begins the game with their own set of four animals (Squids and Turtles respectively to the faction). But there are many Mantas you can still encounter in the waters. In fact, there are twelve Mantas that you can train during the course of the game.

All animals are represented by the  sign in the game. If you encounter any icon with a Manta, consider it to represent all of the Helper Animals.

All the animals can bring you resources and let you perform special effects. When an animal is ready to help you, it is flipped belly-side up with the visible effect. To gain resources or perform a special effect, flip the animal back-side up. In other words, flip the animal on its belly. When the animal is turned back-side up, it is tired. A tired animal is resting and cannot do anything. To make it ready again, players need to perform an effect. The most common way to activate your resting animals is to use the Ocean Currents Action Card.

Note: Unlike in the base game, in Aquatica: Duellum, you do not automatically gain Mantas from special Locations. You can attract them only if, during your turn, you bring the Manta Leader to their nesting territory on the Aquatica World Map.

Remember! If you use an animal with a 2 ↑ effect, you cannot split the effect. You can do another additional action only after finishing the first one.






Effects

These are the effects you can find both on Action Cards or on other components like Locations, Mercenaries, Mantas and Crown Tracks.

Conquer a Location / loyalty of a Mercenary

Buy a Location / loyalty of a Mercenary

 *Raise a Location*

 *Fully raise a Location*

 *Rotate the vortex*


 *Refill the vortex*

 *Move the Manta Leader*

Copy the effect of the last Action Card played by the opponent (top card in their discard pile).

 *Score a Location / The Prosperity Points Deck.*

 *Flip Helper Animals to their active side*

 *Flip Helper Animals of your opponent to their tired side*


 *Return an Action Card of your choice to your hand*

 *Return a Mercenary of your choice to your hand*

EFFECTS (IN DEPTH)

Buy or Conquer a Location

To buy a Location, follow these steps:

- 1 Choose 1 Location  from the Vortex Board.
- 2 Play an Action Card that will allow you to buy a Location (it needs to have that effect).
- 3 If you play for Squids, pay the number of coins shown on the Vortex Board.
If you play for Turtles, pay the price (in coins) on the top of the Location Card.
- 4 Insert the Location into an empty slot of your Player Board so that the top depth appears in the circle.

Instead of buying a Location, you can conquer it. This requires a certain amount of tridents:

- 1 Choose one Location from the Vortex Board.
- 2 Play an Action Card that will allow you to conquer a Location (it needs to have that effect).
- 3 If you play for Turtles, pay the number of tridents shown on the Vortex Board.
If you play for Squids, pay the price (in tridents) on the top of the Location Card.
- 4 Insert the Location into an empty slot of your Player Board so that the top depth appears in the circle.

If you don't have empty slots you cannot buy or conquer a Location.

Remember! If you lack the required amount of coins or power, you can always use one or more of the animals to help or you might need to check your achievement token placed on a goal (if you've already managed to do so).

Remember! You don't refill the Vortex Board after finishing this effect. To do this, you need to use a "Refill the Vortex" effect.

Remember! The cost of conquering and buying varies between the different factions!





Conquer or Buy the Loyalty of a Mercenary

Acquiring the loyalty of a Mercenary 🧟 using coins or tridents is performed the same as conquering or buying a Location (see previous page). Remember, the cost varies between the different factions.

However, you do not place the Mercenary on your Player Board; instead, you place it face down below your Player Board, next to any Location placement slot (whether it's empty or already has a Location). Therefore, you cannot have more than four Locations on your Player Board and four Mercenaries ready to execute orders. While the Mercenary Card is face-down (i.e., immediately after acquisition), you cannot use it.

At the beginning of your next turn, flip the Mercenary face-up — now it is ready to assist you. Once a Mercenary has been used, discard it, face-up, to the Prosperity Points Deck (see page 14).

Raise a Location

As a king or a queen, you are trying to bring prosperity to your realm by exploiting Locations you have discovered.

When you exploit a Location, you raise ↑ resources from it to your Kingdom. By raising Locations, you can score them more quickly or move past empty depths that are blocking your progress. However, if the depth is not empty, you will lose any resources or effects on the depths that you raise. In other words, you must ignore all the depth icons that you cover with this action. When you raise a Location, choose any Location, or Locations (see example below), on your Player Board and move it up the number of depths indicated by the effect icon on the Action Card, Helper Animal, or a different Location Card from the one you are raising.

Example 1 - You're using an Animal to raise a Location:

- 1 As one of your Additional Actions, you are using a ready Helper Animal with the raise effect. It lets you raise a Location one depth.
- 2 Choose one Location that you want to raise and simply slide it one depth up (covering the next depth icon).
- 3 Since you are covering an empty depth, you will not lose any depth bonus.



Example 2 - You're using an Action Card to raise a Location:

- 1 If you play the Raising the Flag as your Main Action, it lets you raise any number of Locations a total of three depths. This means that you can raise one single Location three depths.
- 2 If you chose to use the effect on multiple Locations, you could raise Location "A" once and Location "B" twice.
- 3 Slide Location "A" up once and slide Location "B" up twice.





Example 3 - You're using another Location's effect as an additional action:

- 1 As an additional action, you want to use the raise effect shown on the top depth of Location "A".
- 2 Since you are activating Location "A's" effect, you must slide it up, covering the effect you are using.
- 3 Now you perform the raise effect: raise any number of cards so that you perform as many raise actions as indicated by the icon. In this example, you are raising two depths. You can raise the same Location two depths or raise two Locations one depth each.



*Note that you can't raise the same Location that you are using the effect from: If you are activating Location "A," you can't use its effect to raise Location "A" itself. **Remember that you ignore all bonuses shown on the Depths you just raised!***

You can encounter the raise effect on other components, for example on your Action Card, Mantas, Locations and Mercenaries.

Fully Raise a Location

Sometimes you can raise a Location to the end (skipping all its effects and empty depths). Remember, that by raising a Location to the end you don't score it. To score it you need to use the scoring action.

Rotate the Vortex


This effect is found on Action Cards, as well as on Mantas, Locations, and Mercenaries. By performing this effect, you can rotate the upper vortex the specified number of divisions, either clockwise or counterclockwise.

This changes the cost of purchasing and conquering Locations and Mercenaries for both you and your opponent. Try to use this action to gain maximum advantage for yourself and to trap your opponent. Rotating the vortex is an important part of the game strategy!

Refill the Vortex

This action is special because it's the only one you must perform entirely or not at all.

When playing the Refill the Vortex action, place one card at a time into each empty slot of the vortex, starting with the empty slot with the lowest vortex cost **for your faction** and then increasing. You cannot choose where to place the newly revealed card in the vortex.


For example, a player who is playing Turtles, will have to check the power  price on the vortex and place the card in a slot with the lowest cost (one), then with the cost of two, and then with the cost of four. See the example on the right.





Move the Manta Leader

When performing this action, you can move the Manta Leader one or several steps. Each time, move it from one territory on the Aquatica World Map to an adjacent territory (only territories sharing a border are considered adjacent).

If there is a Wild Manta on the territory you move the Manta Leader to, you immediately claim it for yourself, active side up. It doesn't matter how close it is to either player's capital. If a player has already taken a Wild Manta from its nest, and there's a visible  on the board, then a player might move the Manta Leader there to flip any of their Helper Animals to the ready side.

Moving the Manta Leader to a territory with a faction's Capital means an immediate victory for that faction in the game. See End Game Triggers on page 16.

Copy the effect of the last Action Card played by the opponent

You can copy the effect of the Action Card that is on the top of your opponent's Prosperity Points Deck (see note on the next page).

This is why the cards in both player's discard pile must be face up.

Score a Location

If you have a fully explored Location on your Player Board (that is, a Location with no visible depth markers remaining), you can use this action to transfer that Location to your Prosperity Points Deck — signifying that you have thoroughly explored this underwater territory and incorporated it into your kingdom.

Flip Helper Animals to their active side

This action allows you to flip the specified number of Helper Animals to their active side. It doesn't matter if they are your faction's starting Helpers (Turtles or Squids) or Wild Mantas that joined you due to the movement of the Manta Leader on the Aquatica World Map.

The Ocean Currents Action Card allows you, and only you, to flip all your Helper Animals to their active side.

Flip your opponent's Helper Animals to their tired side

This action allows you to flip the specified number of your opponent's Helper Animals to their tired side. It doesn't matter if they are their faction's starting helpers (Turtles or Squids) or Wild Mantas that joined them due to the movement of the Manta Leader on the Aquatica World Map. In this case, it's your opponent who chooses the animal they want to flip.

Return your Action Cards to your hand

This action allows you to return one Action Card of your choice to your hand.

The Ocean Currents Card lets you return all your Action Cards to your hand.





Prosperity Points Deck

The Prosperity Points Deck is placed face up next to your Player Board and consists of two piles, one for your Scored Locations and one for your played Mercenaries. You can view all the cards in either of these piles at any time, but your opponent can only see the information depicted on the topmost Location and Mercenary in the deck.

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS NOT REPRESENTED BY EFFECTS

You will not encounter these actions on cards, though you can do them freely, but only before or after your main action. These additional actions are the main way to create combos. During your turn, you can perform as many additional actions as you wish. However, typically, you can only play one Mercenary per turn (just like you can only play one Action Card per turn).

Activate Helper Animals

Your Helper Animals can bring you lots of effects. To use them, the animal needs to be on its active side (belly up). After you use the effect, flip the animal: it's now tired and cannot help you again until it rests. **Remember that you can use resources (coins and tridents) from the animal together with the main action.** Other effects are used before or after the main action.

Activate a Location

Each Location has a number of depths which you can exploit, shown along the left side of the card. Within the depths of a Location you can find:

- 1 Resources (coins and tridents) — You can only gain resources from a depth during your main action (when you are playing a card). You can use these resources to recruit Mercenaries, conquer or buy new Locations, or to activate some effects.
- 2 Effects — You can use these before and/or after your Main Action.

You can **only exploit the top depth that is shown** on a Location Card. To gain a resource or activate an effect, you must slide the Location up one depth. This will cause the top depth to be covered by your Player Board, giving you access to new depths! Some depths are empty: they cannot be used for any purpose. However, you cannot simply move those Locations up. You are blocked from exploiting those Locations until you use the raise effect.

Playing a Mercenary

You can play a Mercenary either before or after your main action, but, typically, only one Mercenary per turn! Mercenaries provide you with special, powerful, and complex actions, which are executed similarly to the main action from Action Cards.



Just like with main actions, you cannot interrupt the execution of a Mercenary's action before you perform it to the extent you desire and are able. The stack of played Mercenaries is placed face up next to your Player Board and next to your Scored Location pile, creating the Prosperity Points Deck. Played Mercenaries will bring you Prosperity Points at the end of the game. At any time, you can view all the cards in your Mercenary Pile (remember, that all of them have types needed to achieve some of the goals), but your opponent can't see anything except the information on the top card of your Mercenaries' pile.

Achieving Goals

At any point during their turn (but not interrupting a Mercenary or Main Action), a player can declare the achievement of a goal if they have fulfilled its condition. They can achieve **only one goal per turn**. If a player fulfills the conditions for more than one goal, they must choose only one to declare the achievement for this turn. They can declare the achievement of another goal on their next turn if they still fulfill its conditions. If you are the first player to achieve this goal, take any of your large First Achievement Tokens and place it on the goal. From this moment on, this token grants you resources to support your main action, Mercenary action, or enhances your actions. At the end of the game, you will receive eight Prosperity Points for this goal (even if your First Achievement Token ends up covered by your opponent's Second Achievement Token — see below).

If you are the second player to achieve this goal, take any small Second Achievement Token and place it on the goal, covering your opponent's First Achievement Token. From this moment on, this token grants you resources to support your main action, Mercenary action, or enhances your actions. As a result, you gain more resources or enhancements, but only three Prosperity Points at the end of the game. **Your opponent loses the ability to use resources or enhancements** from their large token (you have covered it), but still receives eight Prosperity Points at the end of the game for their achievement of the goal.



Descriptions of the Goal Tokens:



Have four different types of cards (Locations and Mercenaries) in your Prosperity Points Deck, Player Board or next to it (if it's a Mercenary Card)



Have three Mercenaries in your scoring pile



Have three Wild Mantas



Have four Locations in your Prosperity Points Deck



Have four cards of the same type in your Prosperity Points Deck, Player Board or next to it (if it's a Mercenary Card)



Have four Mercenaries next to your Player Board (not in the Prosperity Points Deck)



Have six of your Helper Animals on their tired side



Have four Locations with different Prosperity Point rewards on your Player Board

Moving on the Crown Track

If you have conquered or purchased a Location or Mercenary with a crown, then after completing your current main or additional action, you immediately advance on the Crown Track and receive a bonus — an additional action.

The bonuses from the Crown Track differ for different factions.

Some actions on the Crown Track can lead to achieving goals or to another advancement on the Crown Track (if you acquire a new Location or Mercenary).

You may also choose not to perform this action, or there may be situations where you have to ignore this bonus — for example, because there is currently no Mercenary Card on the vortex that you can obtain for free.

		Rotate the vortex twice	Your opponent flips one of their animals (they choose) face-down	Conquer a Mercenary for free	Your opponent discards one of their Action Cards (they choose)	Score a Location	Conquer a Location for free	Conquer a Mercenary or Location for free	Your opponent flips all of their animals face down	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
										
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
										
	Rotate the vortex twice	Flip one of your animals face up	Take one of your Action Cards back to your hand	Buy a Location for free	Score a Location	Buy a Mercenary for free	Flip all of your animals face up	Buy a Mercenary or Location for free		

END GAME TRIGGERS

Aquatica: Duellum ends when any one of the following three conditions are met:

- 1 A player has advanced to the 9th space on the Crown Track. This is an instant victory!
- 2 A player brings the Manta Leader into their capital on the Aquatica World Map. This is an instant victory!
- 3 A player has achieved all four Sacred Goals: in this case, play continues until the player who has the First Player Token starts their next turn, and then both players take one more full turn. Once completed, tally up each player's Prosperity Points to determine the ultimate winner.



TALLYING PROSPERITY POINTS

If the game ends with one player achieving the four Sacred Goals, players will tally Prosperity Points based on:

- Points for Mercenaries in the Prosperity Points Deck.
- Points for Locations in the Prosperity Points Deck.
- Points for completed goals: the First Achievement Token grants eight Prosperity Points, and the Second Achievement Token grants three Prosperity Points. The player with the most Prosperity Points is declared the ruler of all Aquatica!

In the case of a tie, check which side of the Aquatica World Map the Manta Leader is on - this player wins!

If the Manta Leader is back in the central area, it's declared a tie. **The Protectorate of Turtles** and **The Serene Republic of Calmari** will have to once again come together in battle to unite the underwater world!

SOLO GAME MODE

Prepare for the game as usual. Choose the faction you will play as. The Action Cards of the other faction will be controlled by Shrimpion, who has become regent for the young ruler not participating in this game. Stack these cards next to the Player Board of the unchosen faction and shuffle them. From now on, we will describe the actions of the automa as the actions of Regent Shrimpion.

The player takes their turns as usual and wins according to the normal rules. On Regent Shrimpion's turn, draw the top card of their Action Deck (you will have to help them with this, as shrimps do not have hands to manipulate real paper cards) and perform the action(s) in the order specified on the card, with the following clarifications:

- If the Action Card instructs Regent Shrimpion to rotate the Vortex Board, they will always rotate the vortex clockwise by the indicated number.
- Regent Shrimpion replenishes the vortex as usual. For them, this is a mandatory action.
- If the card instructs Regent Shrimpion to conquer or buy a Location or a Mercenary, they always select the corresponding card from the slot with the lowest vortex cost for them, regardless of the faction they are playing as.
- Regent Shrimpion always places the acquired Location in the leftmost slot of their board, immediately fully raising it. If their board has no free slots for placing Locations, simply ignore this action.
- Mercenaries obtained by Regent Shrimpion are immediately placed in the pile of played Mercenaries.
- Whenever an Action Card used by Regent Shrimpion on their turn includes moving the Manta Leader, it moves **two areas** toward Regent Shrimpion's capital. The player must calculate the shortest route for them, because, as you guessed, shrimps cannot count. If Regent Shrimpion has several equivalent options for moving the Manta Leader, they always choose the one where they can pick up a Wild Manta. If none of the shortest route options to the capital allow picking up a Manta, the player chooses which route the Manta Leader will take for Regent Shrimpion. But try not to favor yourself too much!
- Regent Shrimpion ignores the action of raising Locations. They are a shrimp and as such not interested in research. However, Regent Shrimpion always performs the scoring action to the maximum possible extent.





Regent Shrimpion discards into the Prosperity Points Deck up to three Locations from their board from left to right. If they have fewer than three Locations on their board, simply skip part of this action—it's no big deal! Subsequently, when conquering or buying new Locations, Regent Shrimpion will place them in the emptied slots on their board from left to right as usual.

- If Regent Shrimpion needs to copy the action of your card, they must do so and perform its action according to the rules described here. If there are no Action Cards in your played cards pile, they simply skip their turn.
- If Regent Shrimpion draws an Ocean Currents Card, immediately return all their Action Cards from the played cards pile above Regent Shrimpion's board, shuffle them, and reform the deck.
- When Regent Shrimpion acquires a territory or Mercenary with a crown, they advance on the Crown Track as usual and receives the bonus indicated there. If they need to flip their Helper Animals to the active side, they simply ignore it, as they never use Helper Animals in the game (though they do acquire them on the Aquatica World Map by moving the Manta Leader).
- If Regent Shrimpion fulfills the conditions of a Sacred Goal on any of their turns, they lay down an Achievement Token (big or small, depending on the game situation). Though they ignore the bonuses of the tokens.

Just like a regular game, a solo game against Regent Shrimpion ends in one of three ways:

- Any player brings the Manta Leader to their capital.
- Any player has advanced to the 9th space on the Crown Track.
- Any player completes the four Sacred Goals.

In all three cases, follow the usual rules for ending the game, including scoring Prosperity Points when the game ends due to completed goals. Best of luck, and remember - shrimps are more cunning than they seem!

In rare cases, the game can turn into an epic struggle for power over the underwater world and last until the Location and Mercenary decks are depleted. If the game ends because the deck is exhausted, calculate the Prosperity Points as you would for completing the four Sacred Goals.

- **Difficulty Level 2** — Shrimpion II the Unmatched: Remove the Ocean Currents Card from the shrimp's Action Deck and put it back in the box. Now, when the deck runs out, Shrimpion II skips a turn and shuffles all the cards to form a new deck.
- **Difficulty Level 3** — Shrimpion III the Swift: The same rules apply, but now Shrimpion III does NOT skip a turn when they have to shuffle all the cards into the deck.
- **Difficulty Level 4** — Gaius Julius Shrimpar IV the Persistent: All previous rules apply, but if Shrimpar IV cannot perform any action on the drawn card, they immediately draw and play a new one.
- **Difficulty Level 5** — Shrimpectoria V the Mighty: All previous rules apply + at the beginning of the game, Shrimpectoria V immediately advances two steps on the Crown Track (ignoring rewards) and moves the Manta Leader two spaces toward their capital. In case the game ends due to Sacred Goals, Shrimpectoria V receives +10 Prosperity Points in the final scoring.





Mercenaries

Enchanter: Flip up to three of your Helper Animals to their tired side. Move the Manta Leader for each helper you flipped.

Hypnotiser: You may perform the scoring action on fully raised Locations (up to three times); then move the Manta Leader for each Location you placed in the Prosperity Points Deck.

Maestro: You may perform up to three raising actions on one or more Locations (in any combination). For each raising action you perform, your opponent must also perform a raising action on one of their Locations such that the raised depth contains an effect (additional action or resource). If your opponent cannot do this, they must raise a Location with an empty depth. If they cannot do that either, they ignore this effect.

Emir-Ritualist: You may perform up to three raise Location actions on one or more Locations (in any combination). For each raise action you perform, you may rotate the vortex one time. After this, you may play an Action Card from your hand, which does not count as your main action for this turn. Simply put, the Emir-Ritualist allows you to play two Action Cards in a turn instead of one.

Caretaker: First, flip all your Mantas to their active side. Then you may play another Mercenary.

Echo Maximus: You may replay the effect of any Mercenary in your Prosperity Points Deck.

Bargain Boss: First, gain +1 coin for each Mercenary of the underwater city *icon* type in your Prosperity Points Deck (including the Bargain Boss itself). Then, play an Action Card from your hand, which does not count as your main action for this turn. Simply put, the Bargain Boss allows you to play two Action Cards in a turn instead of one. Keep in mind that resources in Aquatica: Duellum do not carry over between turns, so it would make sense to play an Action Card that uses coins in some way (such as Expedition, Engineering, Ritual, Call to Arms).

Shark Commander: Free of charge (without spending tridents), capture the top Location card from your opponent's Prosperity Points Deck. This action is allowed only if there is no crown on the card. Note that the captured card is placed on your board as usual, or discarded if you have no free slots on your board.

Shark Stalker: Play the effect of the top Mercenary Card in your opponent's Prosperity Points Deck. Note that you do not take this card for yourself, you just perform its effect. If the effect of this card refers to other cards of a specific type, you check for the presence of these cards in your own Prosperity Points Deck, not your opponent's, but do include the card whose effect you are copying. For example, if you have two Mercenaries from the same underwater city *icon* in your Prosperity Points Deck, and your opponent's top card is the Bargain Boss, you will gain +3 coins and then be able to play an additional Action Card.

Shark Bloodhound: For every Mercenary Card you have in your Prosperity Points Deck, your opponent must flip as many of their Helper Animals to their tired side, or all if they have less Animals than you have Mercenaries.





CREDITS



— *Man in a cool suit. Take that off, what are you?*
— *Scientist, game designer, human.*

GAME DESIGNER

Ivan Tuzovsky is a Doctor of Science in Cultural Studies. In 2021, Ivan successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on the culture of the Digital Age and finally transitioned entirely on the Board Game side of the Force. Currently, he is conducting research in the field of cultural studies of games and is developing board games about the bright future of humanity, which will undoubtedly become a luminous present. =)

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