

Annex 4/7: Country Report of Vietnam

By Mr. Nguyen Hoai Nam

STUDY OF IDENTIFICATION OF MARINE FISHES IN VIETNAM

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Experience of identification fishes in Vietnam

- ☞ Vietnam has a long coastline, wide sea and thousands of islands, so biodiversity marine fish is great in my country.
- ☞ RIMF is the research institute for marine fisheries in Vietnam, so identification of fishes is very important for studies of RIMF.
- ☞ RIMF's ichthyologists usually identify common species right at field trips, and rare species in laboratory.



Experience of identification fishes at RIMF

- ☞ Collecting data from quick identification of common species (especially commercial species) at fieldtrip are used for further of biodiversity, fish fauna, marine biology, fish stock assessment...



Experience of quick identification is inherited from generation to generation of researchers.

Experience of identification fishes at RIMF

- ☞ Hard to identify and rare species is sampled, and photographed, carefully observed and taken note with morphological features like color, fresh size and weight..., fixed and brought to laboratory for further analysis.
- ☞ Identification of those species which is hard to identify, or rare is usually done in laboratory with the support of technical books, document, database and discussions.



Research deep-sea fishery resources in Vietnam

The deep-sea surveys were conducted in Vietnam from 1978 to 2007:

- ☞ The Viet-Xo joint surveys were conducted from 1978 to 1988 using the otter trawl;
- ☞ Living Marine Resources in Vietnam from 1996 to 2005 using the otter trawl, trap and bottom longline;
- ☞ And the continental slope surveys from 2005 to 2007 using the **M.V. SEAFDEC 2** and sampling gears such as bottom longline, bottom vertical long line, traps and pots.

Study identification of marine fishes in Vietnam



The identification for deep-sea species is hardly seen in Vietnam, usually coastal species and oceanic pelagic fish (like shark, tuna...) have been identified by RIMF and some other institutions, because we are lacking in equipment and experience for research and data collecting in deep sea waters.

Study identification of deep-sea fishes in Vietnam

“First record of the Rare Sharpnose Puffer *Canthigaster inframacula* collected from the South China Sea (Bien Dong) of Vietnam” by Keiichi Matsuura and Nguyen Hoai Nam is the latest research on deep-sea species identification of Vietnam. This is for rare species distributed in the depth of 126 -157m in the Indo-Pacific waters. In the report, specimens have been caught by trawl from relatively deep waters in central and southern Vietnam (in the depth of from 60 to 140 m).



WE WANT...

It is strong need of Vietnam to train experts in research and assessment of the resources in deep sea waters, in which identification of deep-sea fishes is important initial step.



Major references used for marine fish identification

1. Books of ichthyology by Vietnamese and China authors.
2. Fishes of Japan with pictorial keys to the species, English edition, vol. 1 + 2 written by T. Nakabo and et al (2002).
3. FAO's document:
 - ◉FAO species identification sheets for fishery purposes. Eastern Indian Ocean (fishing area 57) and Western Central Pacific (fishing area 71). V.1 – 4 (1974).
 - ◉FAO species identification guide for fishery purposes. The living marine resources of the Western Central Pacific. V.1 – 6 (1998 – 2001)
 - ◉18 volumes of FAO SPECIES CATALOGUE
4. Fishbase 2004 and [https:// www.fishbase.com](https://www.fishbase.com)

Retention of scientific fish collection

- * *Samples is fixed by formaldehyde is kept in marine species museum at RIMF.*
- * *Currently, RIMF's marine species museum keeps about 1000 specimen of marine species.*
- * *Now, RIMF is establishing a project to renovate the museum bigger and more special with fish specimen, fishing gear design samples and fishery processed marine product mock-up for research, study and community awareness education.*

The network(s) among fish taxonomists

- ◇ Currently, there has no network or web-base in Vietnam for exchanging fish identifying information among fish taxonomists
- ◇ Information exchange on taxonomic studies have been mainly done through workshops, document or e-mails between colleagues.



Thank you for your attention!