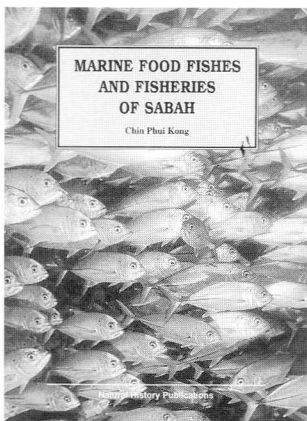


BOOK REVIEW



Marine Food Fishes and Fisheries of Sabah. P. K. Chin, 1998. ISBN 983-812-019-7. 280 pp. Natural History Publications, Ming Kiang Sdn. Bhd., Lot 2G16-2G18, Api-Api Centre, Jalan Centre Point, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, East Malaysia.

The marine fish fauna of the huge Malaysian state of Sabah in Borneo is generally regarded to be one of exceptional diversity. Strangely enough, there has never been any attempt to put the information into one tome. This deficiency is now partially resolved, and again, it is by the “dean” of Sabahan ichthyology, Datuk Chin Phui Kong. Best known for his book (with Bob Inger) on the Freshwater Fishes of North Borneo (Chicago Field Museum, 1962) which has become one of the

key references on Bornean freshwater fish, Datuk Chin has now moved on to the sea. The present book focuses on the fishing industry and commercial species found in Sabah’s waters, and gives us a snapshot of the richness of the state’s coastal waters. Of the over 600 species which appear in its markets, 376 of the more common ones are described and in most cases, figured in colour. The photographs are in most cases, excellent, showing specimens as they would appear fresh in the market. Interesting is that in addition to the standard taxonomic descriptions, details of the local fishery for each species is provided. Of value too is the provision of local vernacular names (Malay, Chinese and Bajau) for each species. In addition to the fish information, Datuk Chin has also included a history of the fishery industry in Sabah, the fishing gears used and the types of boats utilised. All in all, a very nice book for any practising ichthyologist as well as informed fisherman, professional or amateur!

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