

## Chaophraya giant catfish at Marina Reservoir

**Subject:** Chaophraya giant catfish, *Pangasius sanitwongsei* (Teleostei: Siluriformes: Pangasiidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributors.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Marina Reservoir opposite Kallang Park; 1 September 2015; around 1300 hrs.

**Habitat:** Freshwater. Reservoir in urban parkland formed by the damming of an estuary.

**Observer:** Yusfiandi bin Yatiman.

**Observation:** A young example of around 50 cm total length was obtained from the reservoir by an angler. It was released back into the reservoir after the photograph (below) was taken.

**Remarks:** *Pangasius sanitwongsei* is native to Thailand in the Mekong and Chaophraya rivers, and has been known to grow to over 2.5 m in length (Kottelat, 2001: 134). Although listed as a 'critically endangered' species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (2009), juvenile specimens, presumably captive bred, are commonly sold as ornamental fish in aquarium shops (personal observations). As this species tend to outgrow most home aquariums, it is not surprising to have individuals abandoned by pet owners. However, the featured example seems to be the first record of its kind in Singapore (see Ng & Tan, 2010).

### References:

- International Union for the Conservation of Nature, 2009. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/15945/0> (accessed on 15 September 2015)
- Kottelat, M., 2001. *Fishes of Laos*. WHT Publications (Pte) Ltd., Sri Lanka. 198 pp.
- Ng H. H. & H. H. Tan, 2010. An annotated checklist of the non-native freshwater fish species in the reservoirs of Singapore. *COSMOS*. 6 (1): 95-116.



Photograph by Yusfiandi bin Yatiman

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