

Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the bigeye barracuda, *Sphyraena forsteri*

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Subject: Bigeye barracuda, *Sphyraena forsteri* (Teleostei: Carangiformes: Sphyraenidae).

Subject identified by: Aidan Raphael Keh.

Location and date: Singapore Strait off Bedok Jetty; 7 July 2025, around 1620 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Shallow coastal sea.

Observer: Aidan Raphael Keh.

Observation: One live individual of 18 cm standard length (Fig. 1) was caught by hook-and-line baited with prawn. It has been preserved and deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore, under the catalogue number ZRC 68557.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the freshly landed bigeye barracuda (Photograph by: Aidan Raphael Keh).



Fig 2. Blackish blotch in pectoral fin axil of freshly landed specimen. (Photograph by: Aidan Raphael Keh)

Remarks: This seems to be the first record of *Sphyraena forsteri* in Singapore (see Fowler, 1938; Jaafar et al., 2024). The species is widespread throughout the Indo-Pacific except the Hawaiian Islands (Allen & Erdmann, 2024), and its occurrence in Singapore waters is not surprising.

Sphyraena forsteri is distinguished from its congeners in the Southeast Asian region with the following features: Eye very large; lateral line scales 112–123; instead of gill rakers, spinules on 10–20 tubercles on lower limb of gill arch; maxilla reaching below anterior margin of eye; corner of pre-opercle rounded, without projecting flap; origin of first dorsal fin slightly behind pelvic fin base; caudal fin forked; body bluish-grey on back and silvery grey on sides, without bars and stripes; a blackish blotch in axil of pectoral fin (Fig. 2); dorsal, anal and caudal fins dusky, with the tips of second dorsal and anal fins white. Grows to 65 cm in total length (Allen & Erdmann, 2024).

Literature cited:

Allen GR & Erdmann MV (2024) Reef Fishes of the East Indies, Vol. III. Second edition. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia, pp. 946–1466.

Fowler HW (1938) A list of fishes known from Malaya. Fisheries Bulletin, Singapore, 1: 1–268.

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