

Biodiversity Record: Occurrence of the barracuda, *Sphyraena putnamae*, in Singapore

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Subjects: Sawtooth barracuda, *Sphyraena putnamae* (Teleostei: Carangiformes: Sphyraenidae).

Subjects identified by: Jiayuan Lin.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, East Coast Park, Bedok Jetty; 3 April 2026 around 1128 hrs and 15 May 2026 in the morning.

Habitat: Marine. Coastal sea, about 300 m from the shore at a depth of approximately 5 m.

Observers: Ing Sind Law and Yen Yi Tan.

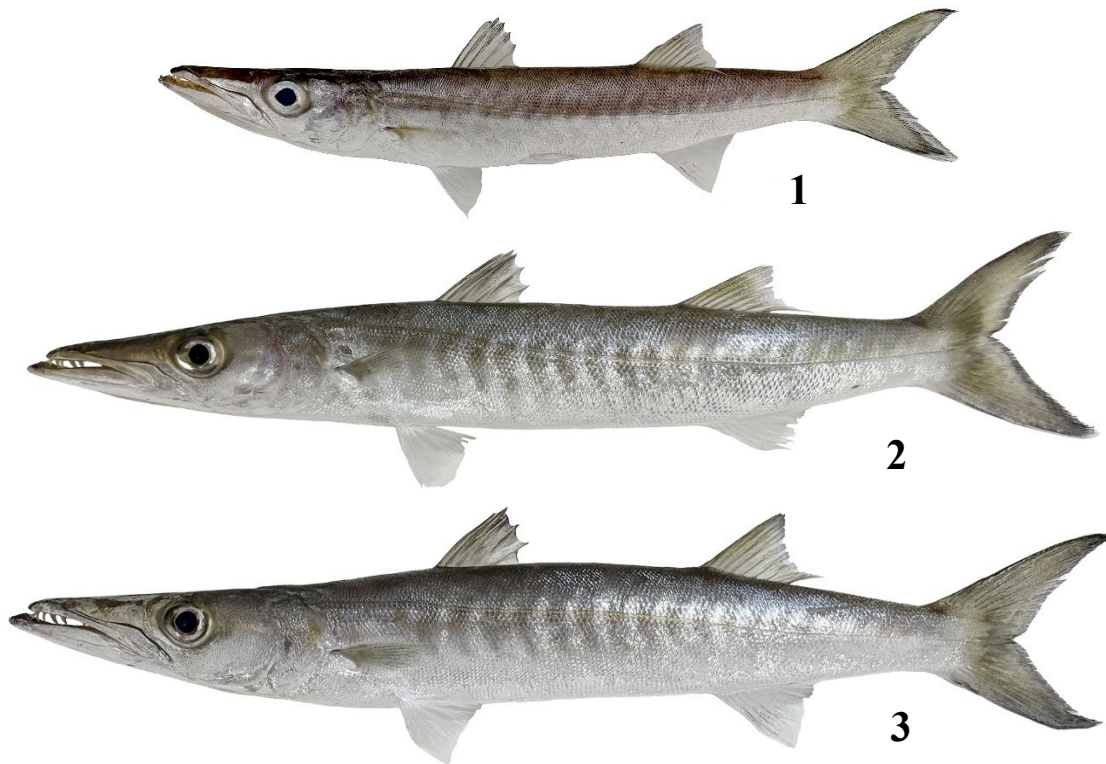


Fig. 1. Lateral view of ZRC 69825, 15.2 cm standard length, obtained on 3 April 2026. Fig. 2. Lateral view of ZRC 69999, 20.5 cm standard length, obtained on 15 May 2026. Fig. 3. Lateral view of ZRC 69999, 21.5 cm standard length, obtained on 15 May 2026. (Photographs by: Kelvin K. P. Lim).

Observations: On 3 April 2026, one example of 15.2 cm standard length (Fig. 1) was caught by an angler using sabiki hooks mimicking juvenile Clupeiformes, and gifted to Ing Sind Law. On 15 May 2026, two larger examples of 20.5 cm standard length (Fig. 2) and 21.5 cm standard length (Fig. 3) were caught at the same location by anglers with bait of *Sardinella* sp. meat, and gifted to Ing Sind Law and Yen Yi Tan.

All three individuals were donated to the Zoological Reference Collection, of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore, for preservation as reference specimens.

Remarks: This seems to be the first record of *Sphyraena putnamae* in Singapore territorial waters (see e.g., Fowler, 1938; Jaafar et al., 2024). The species was previously recorded from the Malaysian side of the northwestern Johor Strait (Kimura et al., 2015), so its presence in Singapore is to be expected.

Sphyraena putnamae grows to 60–87 cm in total length, and can be recognised by a combination of the following morphological features: 123–136 scales pierced by lateral line; first gill arch without gill rakers; maxilla reaching to below anterior margin of eye; 15–20 longitudinal scale rows along a horizontal line drawn from lower margin of eye to posterior margin of operculum; last ray of second dorsal fin distinctly elongate compared to penultimate ray; caudal fin forked with a pair of indistinct lobes in large adults, blackish without white tips; many chevron markings crossing lateral line, oblique in upper and lower halves. This species is widely distributed in the Indo-West Pacific from South Africa through Indonesia to New Caledonia and Vanuatu, and northwards through the Philippines to southern Japan (Morishita et al., 2020; Senou, 2001).

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