

CURRENT RESEARCH ON CHONDRICHTHYES IN FRANCE

SÉRET, B.

ORSTOM, Paris, France

From the early time of Ichthyology, French naturalists have been involved in studies on chondrichthyan fishes. Thus, from Risso (1810) to J. Y Cousteau, a number of studies have been carried out on sharks, skates and sometimes on chimaeras from coasts of France but also from those of overseas French territories and former colonies. Nowadays, there are still researches on these fishes but there are limited due to lack of shark experts. However, the needs, both public and private, exist and even are somewhat increasing with the development of a more general feeling for nature and resource conservation. So what should be done ?

DISTRIBUTION AND DATABASE OF FISHES IN TAIWAN WATERS.

SHAO K.-T., CHEN J.-P. & S.-C. WANG

Institute of Zoology, Nankang, Taipei, Taiwan

The total number of fishes in Taiwan compose of 233 families and 2357 specie. Most of them are marine fish, 2300 species. Their distribution in Taiwan waters have been established in two databases and now can be accessed interactively on the internet. (<http://fishdb.izas.sinica.edu.tw>). The database were constructed on the GRASS and Informix Online with dbsQL interface. User can easily check the actual distribution areas of each species on the map (in a grid system, 10' each) or obtain a species list distribution for each grid. For economical fish within 12 nautical miles from the coastline, 404, 304, 290, 370, 528, 208 species have been recorded in the north, north-eastern, south-eartern, south, south-western, and north-western parts of Taiwan respectively. For coastal (mostly coral reef) fishes, 1104 (Kenting, south), 715 (east), 663 (north), 650 (west), 646 (Penghu), 601 (Green Isl.), 601 (Hsiaoliuchiu), 558 (Orchid Isl.), and 332 (north-eastern) species have been included. Faunistic similarity measure and clustering results of the above distribution data have shown that the distribution pattern of Taiwan fishes are mainly affected by temperature, i.e., Ocean current (warm Kuroshio coming up from south and cool China coastal waters come down from north) and substratum. Fish fauna are quite different between the north and south especially those dominant reef species. The overlapping area are in Penghu on the west and in the north-eastern Taiwan on the east of Taiwan.

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