

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 18 No. 4



Dec. 2010



Published by Society for Wildlife and Nature

APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting

APEC held its 3rd Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting (AOMM3) on Oct. 11th and 12th in Paracas, Peru. Sixteen APEC members sent representatives and the Taiwan delegation was headed by Vice Minister Sing-Hwa Hu of the Council of Agriculture (COA). After the meeting, AOMM3 announced the Paracas Declaration, emphasizing on maintaining the longevity of marine resources from each economical body, to ensure the continuity of food supply.

The main topic of this meeting is “Healthy Oceans and Fisheries Management towards Food Security” with the focus on four sub-themes: the role of oceans in food security, sustainable development and protection of the marine environment, promote free and open trade and investment, and impact of climate change on the oceans. Paracas Action Agenda attached to

Paracas Declaration, instructing the appropriate APEC working groups to carry out policies listed in Paracas Declaration, including joint survey and research on marine ecosystems and climate changes, prevention of marine pollution, conservation of marine biodiversity, removal of barriers to trade of fishery products and promotion of trade liberalization, elimination of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, marine crime and piracy, in order to ensure sustainable development of fisheries and marine resources in the Asia-Pacific region.

In addition to stressing the importance of maintaining marine fisheries production, the Council said, the Taiwan delegation pointed out that attention must be paid to the sustainable and appropriate development of aquaculture because it will be one of the important future sources of food for human beings, and the governments should take care of small fisheries and fishermen’s welfare and livelihood under the impact of climate changes. Moreover, Taiwan fishing vessels operating in the Indian Ocean

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

have suffered serious losses due to the rampancy of Somali pirates. Piracy has not only adversely affected the livelihood of Taiwan fishermen but also endangered world food supply and trade stability. So when negotiating the AOMM3 declaration, the Taiwan delegation actively urged APEC economies to recognize that to ensure food security it is important to prevent piracy. The inclusion of fighting piracy in Paracas Declaration will greatly help joint international efforts to combat piracy.



INSIDE

- **APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting**
- **Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)**
- **Cross Boarding and Inspection between Taiwanese and Australian Vessels on International Waters**
- **Conference on Wildlife Conservation Medicine**
- **Coral Reef Check, Lamay Island Conditions Worsen**
- **Japanese Chestnut Tiger Butterflies Show Up in Lanyu**
- **The 4th Raptor Ecology Symposium**

International Conservation Newsletter is issued free of charge. To be put on the mailing list, please send your complete e-mail address to SWAN International.

北市局版誌字第貳捌陸號

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

The 17th Annual Meeting of the Commission, incorporating the Extended Commission of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) was held in Taipei on October 11th to 14th. There are representatives from more than 80 government agencies, scholar and industries including delegation from Taiwan, cooperative non-members, and non-government organizations (NGO). The meeting decided to strengthen the enforcement of conservation management and the flow of the management procedures, in order to decide the total catch and its distribution of next year.

Since the number of southern bluefin tuna is lowering, all members must reduce their catch to restore the number. CCSBT has been working on a Management Process (MP) for years, to determine how much catch to reduce and when to do so. The main goal of this year is to choose the right MP, and through proper management to allow the population of the breeding and spawning stocks to return to original goal of 20%. The proposal was heavily debated and was decided to hold special extension commission next year. The global total catch was to be determined after MP has been passed to take a step forward towards restoration.

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

Moreover, CCSBT implemented this year the proof of catch documentation plan. The main purpose is to monitor process from catching to delivery to market of the bluefin tuna is within the regulations. The commission focused on monitoring each country to carry out such plan, and to determine if the examination and monitoring process needed to be enhanced. More responsibility was put onto the origin nation of vessels on examining as well as if the ports are following through the plans. Domestic market reports are to be turned in by next year. The last focus was on the possibility of penalizing over-catch or illegal catch in the future.



Cross Boarding and Inspection between Taiwanese and Australian Vessels on International Waters

Australia authorities had officially notified the Western and Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) that after November 28th, Taiwanese and Australian vessels are allowed to board and inspect each other on international waters in the future. Along with New Zealand, Cook Islands, USA, Japan, and France, there are total of 6 countries that Taiwan has such agreement with.

According to WCPFC resolution 06-08 of on board inspection, Taiwanese tuna fishing vessels operating in Western and Central Pacific,

regardless types of tuna fishing vessel, Tuna long line fishing ships over or less than 100 tons, operating in the Western or Central Pacific must abide by the practice when required by qualified personnel from any of these convention countries or territories after verifying the qualification of the inspectors. The vessels should provide fishing licenses, catch reports, and operation log to the inspectors, and notify the Coast Guard and the fishery radio station to report to the Fishery Agency.

Fishery Agency stated that WCPFC vessels are required to follow tuna conservation measures, including documents of fishing permits, operating vessel monitoring system (VMS), detailed operation logs, strictly forbidden to cut off the fins of sharks and dump the bodies, the shark on board must have fin to body ratio larger than 5%, install equipments to prevent catching sea birds, and have tools to cut lose accidental catches of birds and sea turtles. Vessels should abide these regulations. Any fishing vessel will be listed as “illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU)” and will face punishments that could include a revocation of its license, if it fails to cooperate in inspections with the on-board regulatory personnel or is found to have violated the convention's regulations.



INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

Conference on Wildlife Conservation Medicine

The International Conference on Wildlife Conservation Medicine, put together by Endemic Species Research Institute (ESRI), National Ping Dong University, and The Forest Bureau was held on November 3rd at the ES RI. Many experts attended the conference to discuss the issue of health of wildlife and decreasing communal disease between human and livestock.

The world's population now surpasses 6 billion, which has led to an increase in human development and livestock breeding. As a result, wildlife habitat is disappearing, with the health of wild creatures at risk because of human and domestic animal encroachment.

In recent years, infectious diseases that have aroused global concern, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome, avian flu and dengue fever, have all had animal vectors. The health of humans, domestic and wild animals have become more intricate and interlaced. How to combine medical and conservation expertise to prevent diseases, and reduce the impact of communal diseases is the top priority in domestic wildlife conservation.

A total of 31 experts from Taiwan and abroad, including Aaron Bernstein from Harvard

Medical School, Mark Pokras from the Tufts University's School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University's veterinary medicine professor Toshio Tsubota, and Hondo Eiichi of Japan's Nagoya University, attended the 2010 International Conference on Wildlife Conservation Medicine.

The participants at the conference presented 38 papers on five themes, including wildlife conservation medicine and education, in addition to environmental toxins.

Tang Hsiao-yu, director of the institute indicated that through international cooperation. The participants aim to utilize wildlife conservation medical knowledge and technologies, to further monitor and research on wildlife health. There shall be a special emphasis on conservation of wildlife and endangered species, by suggesting effective methods of health management and prevention of diseases, establishing good prevention network and report systems, to conserve biodiversity.



Coral Reef Check, Lamay Island Conditions Worsen

On December 5th, the Taiwan Environment Information Association held a press conference announcing the condition of the coral reef around

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

Lamay Island, also known as Hsiao Liouciou Island. There were a total of 121 dives by the volunteers up until October. They investigated 6 spots around Taiwan including the northeastern corner, Shang-yuan, Green Island, and Lanyu of Taidong County, Dong-yu-ping of Penhu County, and Lamay Island of Pingdong County.

Shores around Taiwan are facing problems of improper development, over fishing, pollution from organic and heavy metal, recreational activities, and improper waste disposals. Along with rising sea surface temperature and increasing in acidity in ocean water, the health of the coral reef is seriously challenged. Judging by the surface area of the living corals, the worst areas are Long-dong, Bi-tou-jiau, and Fan-chai-au of northeastern corner, Ha-ban Bay and Mei-ren-dong of the Lamay Island. The condition is especially terrible at Lamay Island with less than 10% covers of the living corals.

2010 Coral Reef Check is hosted by the Taiwan Environment Information Association. Construction and Planning Agency of the Ministry of Interior (CPAMI), Marine National Park Headquarters, Urban and Rural Development Branch of CPAMI, East Coast National Scenic Area Office, Society of Entrepreneur and Ecology Taiwan Division, and the Dapeng Bay Scenic Area Office were among the co-hosts. They recruited volunteers with diving license and utilized international

standards to conduct scientific research. They also provided the results to the International Reef Check Foundation.

The health condition of the coral reef is determined by the surface area of the living corals. 50-75% is “Good”, 25-50% is “OK”, and under 25% is “bad.”

The investigation around Taiwan revealed that the covering ratio of the living corals in the northeastern corner is between 4.38-49.06%, with Fan-chai-au being the worst. Yehliu is the highest at 10 meters deep. And 5 meters deep at Long-dong had an explosion of growth in algae.

In Shan-yuan Bay of Taidong County, the South Reef and Middle Reef have the cover ratio of 41.25% and 35%, but the water was extremely murky probably due to the heavy rain fall and the development of the Beautiful Bay resort.

Dong-yu-ping of Penhu County has very little population; hence data collected at 3 and 6 metes were 53.13% and 46.88%. The condition of corals there is relatively healthy.

The 3 spots at Green Island, including Gong-guan, Chai-ko, and General’s Rock all have cover ratios between 35.63-59.38% with deep water at General’s Rock and Chai-ko being the lowest, and shallow water at General’s Rock being the highest. All areas were found with “Black Sponge,” damaging algae to the reef, with deep water at Chai-ko in the worst condition.

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

The 3 spots at Lanyu, including Yineh Bay, Double Lion Rock, and Virgin Rock had a coverage of 42.59-53.38%. These areas are blessed with limited human population, so the reef is less damaged by human activities.

The 3 spots at Lamay Island, including, Mei-ren-dong, Ha-ban Bay and the Thick Rock Reef had a coverage of 6.25% to 39.38%. Shallow water at Ha-ban Bay was the worst, and the shallow water at Thick Rock Reef is the best. Due to tourism, Lamay Island is highly developed and the reef was in the worst condition among all islands.

During the investigation, the indicator fish species and commercial invertebrates hardly existed. Volunteers often spotted abandon fishnet wrapped around the reef or corals. All reefs around Taiwan are victims of “over-fishing.” This is not only a warning sign to the imbalance of the food chain around reef ecosystem, but also has a tremendous impact on tourism and fishery.

The man in charge of the reef check Mr. Lin Yu-chu indicated that most the reefs around Taiwan are in “ok” condition. If we started protection and recovery measures, the possibility of returning to “very good” is very high. He would like the government and all industries to realize the importance and urgency of marine preservation, so that measures of establishing

marine protection zones could be done instantly. More importantly, the Coastal Law needs to be passed fast so that the execution of the law within the zones will be upheld.



Japanese Chestnut Tiger Butterflies Show Up in Lanyu

There was a sudden burst of cheers on the Lanyu highway in the morning. Director of the Institute of Environmental Education and Resources of the Taipei Municipal University of Education Dr. Chen Jian-chi along with specialist from Japan captured a chestnut tiger butterfly on Nov. 20th that was marked in Japan back in Oct. 11th. This butterfly flew over 1,700 km in about 40 days to reach the little island in the Pacific. It further enhanced the migration theory of the chestnut tiger butterfly.

The chestnut tiger butterfly in Taiwan and Japan belong to the same sub-specie (*Parantica sita nipponica*). It is the known to have long distance traveling behavior.

Every June, chestnut tiger butterflies in Taiwan fly to Japan along with the southwestern current. In October, chestnut tiger butterflies in Japan fly towards Taiwan with the northeastern current. In order to study the migration pattern, Dr. Chen started to cooperate with Japan in 1997 to mark and release chestnut tiger butterflies as

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

well as the academic exchange. So far, there are 4 chestnut tiger butterflies marked in Taiwan found in Japan, and 9 vice versa. Four of them were captured in Lanyu, and the one caught on the 20th was the first of this year.

In both 2006 and 2007, chestnut tiger butterflies from Japan were spotted in Lanyu. A group of chestnut tiger butterflies releasers from Aichi, Japan started to come to Lanyu in 2008. They are accompanied by Dr. Chen's team to conduct catch and release. One enthusiast who has been coming to Lanyu for 3 years in a row state that he would always try to come. It is not only the chestnut tiger butterflies, but also the friends and hospitality that draw him here every year.

Dr. Chen indicated that Lanyu has not only the Magellan's iridescent iirdwing, but also the special sub-specie *Papilio bianor kotoensis*, as well as the chestnut tiger butterflies flew in from Japan. These abundant butterfly resources can all turn into attractions of the eco-tourism.

The mark and release of chestnut tiger butterfly require lots of manpower and long term data collection. Even though there have been a large number of volunteers in recent years, it is still insufficient. Dr. Chen would like to see that the public can have a keen eye and when they see butterflies with words or marking on their wings,

they can capture or photograph them and contact basintp@tmue.edu.tw right away. With more and more data, the mystery of how chestnut tiger butterfly move about can be solved soon.

More information could be found on the moving Danaidae butterfly website : <http://www.mrr-butterfly.tw>



The 4th Raptor Ecology Symposium

The 4th Raptor Ecology Symposium was held on November 21st. It was held by the Raptor Research Group of Taiwan for every 5 years. The symposium gathered speakers from 16 institutions, with total of 25 papers on 10 different species. It attracted more than 200 raptor scholars, specialists and lovers.

President of the Raptor Research Group Liu Shiao-ru indicated that there are a total of 45 raptors species known in Taiwan, including 2 families, 17 genera, and 32 species of diurnal raptors and 2 families, 8 genera, and 13 species of nocturnal raptors. In Taiwan, all raptors are protected species under the Wildlife Conservation Act.

There are 3 main topics on this symposium—Nocturnal Raptors, Diurnal Stationary Raptors, and Diurnal Migratory

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

Raptors, each with 6 research papers to present, along with 8 other papers with independent topics.

Even though the research on Taiwan raptor's migratory path had started, the map of the path is still in dire need to be established. Forest Bureau is working with Raptor Research Group to conduct "Satellite Tracking of the Migration of Gray-faced Buzzard Eagle." The purpose is to establish the moving path of the gray-faced buzzard eagle who travel long way to get to Kenting, Taiwan each year.

Liu suggested increasing the number of raptors samples, basic life history and habitat for research, and emphasized the need to value the research on raptor conservation, including how the accumulation of toxin in rats and fish is affecting raptors. There were witnesses who saw mother raptor brought a poisoned rat back to the nest and fed to the young chick, and led to the death of the chick.

Liu indicated the future goals of the Raptor Research Group are to study the raptor population and habitat use in greater Taipei area, to map a Taiwanese raptor map, and to promote the conservation of raptors. She also stressed that protection is the key solution. There are 5 dam development plans in Taiwan and several

road-plowing plans, which all divide up habitat into smaller pieces and creating more problems. This is the highest hurdle for the raptor conservation currently.



International Conservation Newsletter

Publisher/ Editor-in-Chief: Ling-ling Lee

Editors: Yi-fen Lin / Pei-Sung Hsu

Publisher & Editorial Office:

Society for Wildlife and Nature (SWAN)

Add.: 1F, No. 35, Lane 175, Hopping E. Road,
Taipei 116, Taiwan, ROC

Tel: +(886-2) 2709-8160

Fax: +(886-2) 2784-6774

Email: swanicn@gmail.com

Website: [http:// www.swan.org.tw](http://www.swan.org.tw)