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# Surveys of native freshwater fishes in Surin province, Thailand

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## ABSTRACT

Surveys of native freshwater fishes in Surin were conducted during October, 2000-September, 2002. Fish specimens were collected by various types of fishing gears e.g. gill net, purse seine, hook and lines, traps, and other fishing methods such as electro-fishing and Sodium cyanide were applied in some cases. The fish samplings were undertaken at the following five sampling sites; 1) Mun River at Thatoom District, 2) Chee River at Muang district, 3) Ampaen reservoir at Muang District, 4) Haui Lampork reservoir at Srikhorapoom District and 5) Haui Sa-neng reservoir and Surin Campus Reservoir at Muang District. The fish were subsequently analyzed for taxonomy and distribution. The results indicated that 108 fish species within 25 families were recorded. Cyprinidae family was found as the most dominant comprising of 49 species, followed by Siluridae (7 species), Cobitidae (7 species), Bagridae (6 species), Pangasiidae (6 species), Belontiidae (4 species), Channidae (4 species), Mastacembelidae (4 species), Notopteridae (2 species), Ambasseidae (2 species), Soleidae (2 species), Clupeidae (2 species), and the families of one species; Blonidae, Hemiramphidae, Clupeidae, Balitoridae, Gyrinocheilidae, Anabantidae, Eleotridae, Helostomatidae, Osphronemidae, Nandidae, Sundasalangidae, Synbranchidae and Tetraodontidae.

**KEY WORDS:** Thailand Native Freshwater Fishes; Fishing Gears; Fishing Method, Taxonomy

## INTRODUCTION

Surin province is located in the northeast of Thailand. The populations are mostly farmers, working in extensive farming systems. Natural water resources are mainly exploited as farm inputs, such as rivers, creeks, reservoirs and some from irrigation projects for crop cultivation. It is found that this quantity of water supply is not sufficient to support the whole year because most of natural water sources run dry in summer, except Mun River, Chee River (Mun tributary), streams, rivulets and the large reservoirs. However, the farmers still keep working paddy cultivation, animal rearing, wild fish capturing and aquaculture, even though water and soil quality are poor during the dry season. At the present, the quality of water is getting worse, resulting from the abundant use of many chemicals such as pesticide and insecticide in agriculture, and domestic waste water from the community has been released into water sources. This causes losses and reduction of fish species and aquatic animals. In addition, the capture of fish in the spawning season, using poisons such as rotenone, saponin, cyanide, and explosives to catch the fish were also important contributory factors.

The objectives of this study are to document the current status of native freshwater fishes in some rivers, creeks and reservoirs located in Surin province, to investigate the principle data on the biology and biodiversity of fish, to determine the ecological conditions of water supplies and to conduct taxonomical studies of fishes in the mentioned water bodies. This information can

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be used to arrange the protection and conservation plans for native fish species as well as the environmentally sustainable management water resources.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Five sampling sites located in Surin Province including (Mun River in Thatoom district, Chee River (Mun tributary) in Muang district, Ampauen Reservoir in Muang district, Haui Lampork Reservoir in Srikoraphoom district, and Haui Sa-neng Reservoir and Surin Campus Reservoir at Muang district) were surveyed during October–September, 2002. Samples were taken at food markets and captured using fishing gears such as gillnets, purse seine, hook and line, and traps. In some cases, other fishing methods such as electro-fishing and sodium cyanide were used. These two activities were authorized by the government office specially for this study. Fish specimens were classified and identified according to Smith (1945), Taki (1974), Sontirat (1976), Mohammad (1983), Faculty of Fisheries (1985), Lumlertdacha et al. (1986), Sodsuk et al. (1988), Department of Fisheries (1992), Rainboth (1996), Vidthayanon et al. (1997), Jumpasri (1999), Baird (1999), Pantanit (2000), Sunaiyarattapron (2001) and Vidthayanon (2001).

## RESULTS

The results of the sampling efforts of native fish species in Surin province were found totally 25 families, 63 genera and 108 species (Table 1). Cyprinidae was the most dominant species, comprised approximately 45.37% totally found 49 species. The most abundant species were *Barbodes gonionotus* Bleeker, *Henicorhynchus cryptopogon* Fowler and *Rasbora* spp. subsequently family Siluridae and Cobitidae which 7 species were collected in each. Six species were found in each in family Bagridae and Pangasiidae whereas in the other families, only one species were investigated (Annex 1).

## DISCUSSION

The Mun River (Site 1) and Chee River (Mun tributary) (Site 2) were had the most abundant fish species, with 106 species in 25 families and 102 species in 22 families, respectively. In these two locations, the most dominant species belonged to Cyprinidae family. These results were similar to the study of Tantong and Siripan (1968), who surveyed the freshwater fish species in Mun River caught by fishers and at food markets in Ubon Ratchathani province in 1967. They found that Cyprinidae were the dominant species followed by Siluridae and Bagridae (39, 9 and 8 species, respectively), among a total of 84 species in 20 families.

In 1969 Tantong and Siripan, also found 114 fish species in 23 families in a survey from Mun River mouth at Bandan District, Ubon Ratchathani to Kantararom District, Srisaket. They found that Cyprinidae was dominant fish family (55 species), followed by Siluridae and Bagaridae (9

and 8 species respectively). The report by Team Consulting Engineers (1982), who re-surveyed the Mun River, lists 74 species from 19 families of which Cyprinidae, with 39 species, was the most dominant. In addition, Temiyajon *et al.* (1981) recorded 60 species from 19 families in the lower Mun River. Duangsawasdi and Krachangdara (1994) and Duangsawasdi and Duangsawasdi (1992) studied the distribution of fish in Mun River from Phimai District, Nakorn Ratchasima to Khongchium District, Ubon Ratchathani from December 1990 until March, 1991. Their results recorded 70 species of freshwater fishes from 23 families. Of these the family Cyprinidae was the most dominant family followed by the family Bagridae. In addition, Duangsawasdi *et al.* (1993) found 77 fish species in 25 families from Pakmun Dam construction area, Ubon Ratchathani during two periods June 30 to July 2 1992 and March 23 to 25 1993.

It is suggested that the difference in the number of fish species found in Surin (Mun River site) water bodies surveyed from 1967 to 1993 may be caused by the different sampling methods and locations. For instance Tantong and Siripan (1968), Team Consulting Engineers (1982), Temiyajon *et al.* (1981) collected specimens from fishers and food markets only in Ubon Ratchathani Province. However, Tantong and Siripan (1969) sampled both Ubon Ratchathani and Srisaket Province. Duangsawasdi and Chookajorn (1991) and Duangsawasdi and Duangsawasdi (1992) samples cover Srisaket, Surin and Nakorn Ratchasima Province, using electro-fishing and fine net and did not collect the specimens from fishermen and food markets.

The fish species from Ampauen, Haui Lampork, Haui Sa-neng and Surin Campus reservoirs which is static water column belonged to 91 species from 21 families, 71 species from 21 families and 61 species from 19 families, respectively. The results showed that the number of fish species were less than found in running-water bodies such as rivers. This is probably because some fish, including long-nose Loaches, Loaches and Sheat-fish, live in moving water, in deep water, or on the sand. This finding was similar to Duangsawasdi and Krachangdara (1994), who recorded 81 fish species from 21 families in Ratchaprapa Dam reservoir, Suratthani province. Chittapalapong *et al.* (1997) found 28 species from 13 families in fisheries resources in Pranburi reservoirs. Kakkao *et al.* (2002) found 34 species from 13 families in Lamtakong Dam reservoir. Chookajorn *et al.* (2002) reporting on the biodiversity of fishes in Pasak Cholasit Dam and showed that 120 species from 34 families were collected before constructing the dam whereas only 102 fish species in 17 families were found after construction. This work suggests that the variation of fish species in water resources developments is determined by environmental conditions such as location, water volume and water conditions. Recently, the kinds and amount of fish have decreased due to over-fishing or reduced water quality and water volume.

## CONCLUSIONS

One hundred and eight species in 25 families of the native freshwater fishes were found from all sampling sites in Surin province, as described below;

1. 25 families and 106 species in Mun River at Thatoom District
2. 22 families and 102 species in Chee River (Mun tributary) at Muang district
3. 21 families and 91 specie in Ampauen reservoir at Muang district
4. 21 families and 71 species in Hai Lampork reservoir
5. 19 families and 61 species in Hai Sa-neng and Surin Campus reservoirs at Muang district

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Table 1 List of the names of native freshwater fishes recorded in Surin province, 2000-2002

No	Common name	Scientific name	Sites to survey				
			1	2	3	4	5
<b>Family Belontiidae</b>							
1	Needle fish	<i>Xenentodon cancilla</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Family Hemiramphidae</b>							
2	Half-beak	<i>Dermogenys pusillus</i> van Hasselt, 1823	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Family Clupeidae</b>							
3	Thai river spart	<i>Clupeichthys aesarnensis</i> Wongratana, 1983	+	+	+	+	
<b>Family Balitoridae</b>							
4	Loach	<i>Noemachilus masyae</i> Smith, 1933	+	+			
<b>Family Cobitidae</b>							
5	Long-nose loaches	<i>Acanthopsis choirorhynchos</i> (Bleeker, 1854)	+	+			
6	Long-nose loaches	<i>Acanthopsis</i> sp.	+	+			
7	Tiger loach	<i>Botia helodes</i> Sauvage, 1875	+	+			
8	Loach	<i>Botia lecontei</i> Fowler, 1937	+	+			
9	Yellow-tail botia	<i>Botia modesta</i> Bleeker, 1865	+	+			
10	Loach	<i>Botia morleti</i> Tirant, 1885	+	+			
11	-	<i>Lepidocephalichthys hasselti</i> (Val. in Cuv. & Val., 1846)	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Family Cyprinidae</b>							
12	Red-tail tinfoil barb	<i>Barbodes altus</i> (Gunther, 1868)	+	+	+	+	
13	Thai silver barb	<i>Barbodes gonionotus</i> (Bleeker, 1850)	+	+	+	+	+
14	Tinfoil barb	<i>Barbodes schwanenfeldi</i> (Bleeker, 1853)	+	+	+	+	
15	-	<i>Crossochilos oblongus</i> Kuhl & in van Hasselt, 1823)	+	+	+		
16	Siamese flying Fox	<i>Crossochilos siamensis</i> (Smith, 1931)	+	+	+		
17	Barb	<i>Cyclocheilichthys armatus</i> (Valenciennes, 1842)	+	+	+	+	+
18	Indian river barb	<i>Cyclocheilichthys apogon</i> (Val. in Cuv. & Val., 1842)	+	+	+	+	+
19	Sodler-river barb	<i>Cyclocheilichthys lagleri</i> Sontirat, 1985	+	+	+	+	
20	Barb	<i>Cyclocheilichthys repasson</i> (Bleeker, 1850)	+	+	+	+	
21	Barb	<i>Dangilla lineata</i> (Sauvage, 1878)	+	+	+		
22	-	<i>Discheronotus ashmeadi</i> (Fowler, 1937)	+	+	+	+	+
23	Red-tail black shark	<i>Epalzeorhynchus frenatus</i> (Fowler, 1934)	+	+			
24	Minnnow barb	<i>Esomus metallicus</i> Alh, 1924	+	+	+	+	+
25	Spotted shark	<i>Hampala dispar</i> Smith, 1934	+	+	+	+	+
26	Transverse-bar barb	<i>Hampala macrolepidota</i> (Kuhl & van Hasselt, 1823)	+	+	+	+	+
27	Barb	<i>Henicorhynchus cryptopogon</i> Fowler, 1935	+	+	+	+	+



No	Common name	Scientific name	Sites to survey				
			1	2	3	4	5
28	Barb	<i>Henicorhynchus ormatipinnis</i> Roberts, 1997	+	+	+	+	+
29	Jullien's mud carb	<i>Henicorhynchus siamensis</i> (Sauvage, 1881)	+	+	+	+	+
30	Pink tail barb	<i>Leptobarbus hoevenii</i> (Bleeker, 1851)	+	+	+	+	+
31	Apollo shark	<i>Luciosoma bleekeri</i> Steindachner, 1879	+	+	+	+	+
32	Greater black shark	<i>Morulius chrysophekadion</i> (Bleeker, 1850)	+	+	+	+	+
33	Barb	<i>Mystacoleucus atridorsalis</i> Fowler, 1937	+	+	+	+	+
34	Barb	<i>Mystacoleucus marginatus</i> (Val. In Cuv. & Val., 1842)	+	+	+	+	+
35	Stream barilius	<i>Opsarius koratensis</i> (Smith, 1931)	+	+	+	+	+
36	Bony-lipped barb	<i>Osteochilus hasselti</i> (Val in Cuv. & Val., 1842)	+	+	+	+	+
37	Hard-lipped barb	<i>Osteochilus lini</i> Fowler, 1935	+	+	+	+	+
38	Carp	<i>Osteochilus melanopleura</i> (Bleeker, 1852)	+	+	+	+	+
39	Bony-lipped barb	<i>Osteochilus waandersi</i> (Bleeker, 1852)	+	+	+	+	+
40	-	<i>Parachela maculicauda</i> (Smith, 1934)	+	+	+		
41	-	<i>Parachela oxygasteroides</i> (Bleeker, 1852)	+	+	+		
42	Siamese river abramine	<i>Parachela siamensis</i> (Gunther, 1868)	+	+	+		
43	Siamese river abramine	<i>Paralaubuca typus</i> Bleeker, 1863	+	+	+		
44	Seven-stripped barb	<i>Probarbus jullieni</i> Sauvage, 1880	+	+			
45	Smith's barb	<i>Puntioplites proctozysron</i> (Bleeker, 1865)	+	+	+	+	+
46	Golden little barb	<i>Puntius brevis</i> (Bleeker, 1850)	+	+	+	+	+
47	Golden little barb	<i>Puntius stigma</i> (Val., 1844)	+	+	+	+	
48	Minnow	<i>Raiamas guttatus</i> (Day, 1870)	+	+	+	+	+
49	Yellowtail rasbora	<i>Rasbora aurotaenia</i> (Tirant, 1885)	+	+	+	+	+
50	Rad tailed rasbora	<i>Rasbora borapetensis</i> Smith, 1934	+	+	+	+	+
51	Slender rasbora	<i>Rasbora daniconius</i> (Haminton, 1923)	+	+	+	+	+
52	Minnow	<i>Rasbora dusonensis</i> (Bleeker, 1851)	+	+	+	+	+
53	Silver rasbora	<i>Rasbora myersi</i> Brittan, 1954	+	+	+	+	+
54	Minnow	<i>Rasbora rubrodorsalis</i> Dunoso-Buchner	+	+	+	+	+
55	Yellowtail rasbora	<i>Rasbora tornieri</i> (Tirant, 1855)	+	+	+	+	+



No	Common name	Scientific name	Sites to survey				
			1	2	3	4	5
56	Scissor tailed rasbora	<i>Rasbora trilineata</i> Steindachner, 1870	+	+	+	+	+
57	Golden little barb	<i>Systemus aurotaeniatus</i> (Tirant, 1885)	+	+			
58	Red-cheek barb	<i>Systemus orphoides</i> (Val. in Cuv. &	+	+	+		
59	Banded barb	<i>Systemus partipentazona</i> (Fowler, 1934)	+	+	+	+	+
60	White lady carp	<i>Thynnichthys thynnoides</i> (Bleeker, 1852)	+	+	+	+	
<b>Family Gyrinocheilidae</b>							
61	Siamese gyriocheilid	<i>Gyrinocheilus aymonieri</i> (Tirant, 1884)	+	+			
<b>Family Notopteridae</b>							
62	Spotted knife fish	<i>Chitala ornata</i> (Gray, 1831)	+	+	+	+	+
63	Giant feather back	<i>Notopterus notopterus</i> (Pallas, 1769)	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Family Ambassadeidae</b>							
64	Siamese glassfish	<i>Parambassis siamensis</i> (Fowler, 1937)	+	+	+	+	+
65	Duskyfin glassy perchlet	<i>Parambassis wolffii</i> (Bleeker, 1850)	+	+			
<b>Family Anabantidae</b>							
66	Climbing perch	<i>Anabas testudineus</i> (Bloch, 1792)	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Family Belontiidae</b>							
67	Snake skin gourami	<i>Trichogaster pectoralis</i> (Regan, 1910)	+	+	+	+	+
68	Blue gourami	<i>Trichogaster trichopterus</i> (Pallas, 1770)	+	+	+	+	+
69	Pygmy gourami	<i>Trichopsis pumila</i> (Arnold in Ahl, 1937)	+	+	+	+	+
70	Croaking gourami	<i>Trichopsis vittatus</i> (Cuv. in Cuv. & Val., 1831)	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Family Channidae</b>							
71	Red-tailed head fish	<i>Channa limbata</i> (Cuv., 1831)	+	+	+	+	+
72	Blotched snake-head fish	<i>Channa lucius</i> (Cuv. In Cuv. & Val., 1831)	+	+	+	+	+
73	Red snake head fish	<i>Channa micropeltes</i> (Cuv. in Cuv. & Val., 1831)	+	+	+	+	+
74	Stripped snake head fish	<i>Channa striata</i> (Bloch, 1797)	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Family Eleotridae</b>							
75	Sand goby	<i>Oxyeleotris marmorata</i> Bleeker, 1852	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Family Helostomidae</b>							
76	Kissing gourami	<i>Helostoma teminkii</i> (Cuv. in Cuv. & Val., 1831)	+			+	+
<b>Family Osphronemidae</b>							
77	Giant gourami	<i>Osphronemus goramy</i> Lacepede, 1802			+	+	+

No	Common name	Scientific name	Sites to survey				
			1	2	3	4	5
<b>Family Nandidae</b>							
78	Striped tiger nandid	<i>Pristolepis fasciatus</i> (Bleeker, 1851)	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Family Soleidae</b>							
79	Sole	<i>Archiroides leucorhynchus</i> Bleeker, 1851	+	+	+		
80	Sole	<i>Brachiurus siamensis</i> (Sauvage, 1874)	+	+	+		
<b>Family Sundasalangidae</b>							
81	-	<i>Sundasalanx praecox</i> Roberts, 1981	+	+			
<b>Family Bagridae</b>							
82	Yellow mystus	<i>Hemibagrus nemurus</i> (Val. in Cuv. & Val., 1839)	+	+	+	+	+
83	Red-tail mystus	<i>Hemibagrus wyckioides</i> (Chaux & Fang, 1949)	+	+	+		
84	bumble bee catfish	<i>Leiocassis siamensis</i> Regan, 1913	+	+	+		
85	Bocourt's river catfish	<i>Mystus bocourti</i> Bleeker, 1864	+	+			
86	Blue-striped catfish	<i>Mystus mysticetus</i> (Bleeker, 1846)	+	+	+	+	+
87	Catfish	<i>Mystus singaringan</i> (Bleeker, 1846)	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Family Clariidae</b>							
88	batrachian walking catfish	<i>Clarias batrachus</i> Linnaeus, 1758	+		+	+	+
89	Gunther's walking catfish	<i>Clarias macrocephalus</i> Gunther, 1864	+		+	+	+
<b>Family Pangasiidae</b>							
90	-	<i>Helicophagus waandersii</i> Bleeker, 1858	+				
91	Mekong giant catfish	<i>Pangasianodon gigas</i> Sauvage, 1930			+		
92	Siripred catfish	<i>Pangasianodon hypophthalmus</i> (Sauvage, 1878)	+	+	+	+	+
93	Black ear catfish	<i>Pangasius larnaudii</i> Bocourt, 1866	+	+	+		
94	Catfish	<i>Pangasius polyuranodon</i> Bleeker, 1852	+	+	+		
95	Catfish	<i>Pteropangasius pleurotaenia</i> (Sauvage, 1878)	+	+			
<b>Family Siluridae</b>							
96	Twisted-jaw sheatfish	<i>Belodontichthys dinema</i> (Bleeker, 1935)	+	+	+		
97	-	<i>Kryptopterus cheveyi</i> Durand, 1940	+	+	+		+
98	Sheat-fish	<i>Kryptopterus kryptopterus</i> (Bleeker, 1851)	+	+	+		
99	Sheat-fish	<i>Micronema apogon</i> (Bleeker, 1851)	+	+	+		
100	Whisker sheatfish	<i>Micronema bleekeri</i> (Gunther, 1864)	+	+	+		
101	Two-spot glass catfish	<i>Ompok bimaculatus</i> (Bloch, 1797)	+	+	+		
102	Great white sheatfish	<i>Wallago attu</i> (Bloch in Schneider, 1801)	+	+	+		

No	Common name	Scientific name	Sites to survey				
			1	2	3	4	5
<b>Family Mastacembelidae</b>							
103	Spiny eel	<i>Macrognathus semiocellatus</i> Roberts, 1986	+	+	+	+	+
104	Peacock eel	<i>Macrognathus siamensis</i> (Gunther, 1861)	+	+	+	+	+
105	Fire spiny eel	<i>Mastacembelus erythrotaenia</i> Bleeker, 1850	+	+	+	+	+
106	tire trac eel	<i>Mastacembelus favus</i> Hora ,1923	+	+	+	+	
<b>Family Synbranchidae</b>							
107	Swamp eel	<i>Monopterus albus</i> (Ziewu, 1793)	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Family Tetraodontidae</b>							
108	Puffer fish	<i>Monotreta fangi</i> (Pellegrin & Chevey, 1940)	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Total</b>			<b>106</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>71</b>	