



STAKEHOLDER REPORT

FY2020

**MARINE
STEWARDS**
SINGAPORE



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2020

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LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

SUE YE

In the year where a pandemic swept the globe, we were extremely lucky in being able to conduct two large scale events before our country went into circuit breaker mode.

Our inaugural public event, Fishing For the Future 2020 welcomed over 100 attendees, while the Zziplex Asia Shore Angling Competition 2020 saw over 480 participants. This was the first-ever fishing competition in Singapore to incorporate fish lengths into the competition rules.

While Covid-19 gave us much time and space for thought, reflection and adjustment, what it meant for our oceans was respite: Ships and ferries slowed to a halt - ocean traffic and noise pollution decreased. Fishermen stayed at home - fish flourished.

During lock down, we sought creative means for education and outreach, conducting Zoom sessions with our members and an online social media competition around marine conservation.

Then, as we emerged from the Covid-19 crisis, and with international travel restricted, people took to the seas like never before.

On the one hand, more people experiencing sea life (aka the good life) would surely mean more ocean lovers and ocean protectors in the making. Yet on the other hand, the unprecedented amount of patronage our seas are getting, now means an added urgency to educate on responsible, sustainable and safe use of our marine resources.

Join me in taking a look at some of our efforts and achievements in 2020, none of which would have been possible without you, our Stakeholders. Thank you so much, to our donors, sponsors, volunteers, Marine Stewards members, researchers, government agencies, fellow non-profit and blue conservation groups, press, for rallying around and with Marine Stewards, for the betterment of our seas. Special mention goes to the team - Fika, Capt Q, Davy and Aki for being strong, steadfast and committed to our cause.

With warm regards,
Sue





2020

HINDSIGHT



1ST
**SUSTAINABLE
FISHING
GUIDELINES**
FOR SINGAPORE

6
EVENTS

670
PARTICIPANTS

>10
RECORDED
SIGHTINGS

4
RESEARCH
PROJECTS
SUPPORTED

BECAUSE

OCEAN LOVERS ARE OCEAN PROTECTORS



OUR TEAM



SUE YE
Founder



MYKA SALLEH
Events



QUEK WEE TECK
Education



DAVY ONG
Community



AKIHIRO EGUCHI
Treasurer



MISSION . POSSIBLE

ACTIVATE SEA SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS

and empower them as citizen scientists, to contribute to
marine conservation

EDUCATE AND PROMOTE

sustainable use, stewardship and conservation of the
oceans, seas and marine resources

DONERS, SPONSORS



MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS



STAKEHOLDERS

We consider our stakeholders to be like-minded people, and organisations who share the same goals and values as us, with whom we work with, partner and also serve

It takes a village to do what we do, and it is YOU, our stakeholders, who are instrumental to our work!

RESEARCH, ACADEMIA



FOUNDING MEMBERS



PARTNERS, COLLABORATORS



GOVT AGENCIES +



PRESS



Key Areas

1

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Through educational content, events, publicity and advocacy

2

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Marine Stewards and sea sports enthusiasts contribute towards marine science and conservation

3

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Where possible, our members volunteer and provide support to researchers. We work hand-in-hand with researchers who value marine conservation

4

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The blue community is diverse, and involves many other stakeholders including government agencies. We play an active role in such activities that impact the broader community



RELEASE JUVENILES

Let them grow and reproduce



NO TAKE: Shovelnose Ray

Critically Endangered



ALL TAKE : Hybrid Grouper

Invasive Species



MATURITY LENGTHS

Select fish type. Lengths refer to Total Length unless otherwise stated

[Groupers](#) | [Snappers](#) | [Bream](#) | [Sweet Lips](#) | [Pelagics](#) | [Sharks](#) | [Rays](#) | [Others](#)

Groupers

Orange-Spotted Grouper
Epinephelus coioides

Maturity Length: 25 - 30 cm
Transitions: 55 - 75 cm

Mandarin: 石斑魚 (Shí bān yú), 紅点石斑 (Hóng diǎn shí bān)
Malay: Ikan Kerapu bintik jingga, Kerapu Pinang, Kerapu Balang, Kerapu Rintek, Kerapu Pinang
Teochew/Hokkien:



Leopard
Plectropus

Maturity

Manda: 斑 (bān)
Malay: Teod




Epinephelus

Maturity length: 58-64 cm
Transitions: 10 years old

Mandarin: 高脚石斑魚 (Gāo jiǎo shí bān yú)
Malay: Kerapu



Honeycomb Grouper
Epinephelus quoyanus

Maturity Length: 24 cm
Transitions: 33 cm

Mandarin: 石斑魚 (Shí bān yú), 蜜蜂斑 (Mìfēng bān)
Malay: Ikan Kerapu Cacak, Kerapu Tulul
Teochew/Hokkien: Gao Her
Cantonese: Seck Pan




OUR MISSION
To promote a sustainable fishing culture through guidelines, education and outreach.

SUPPORT A GOOD CAUSE
Sign up to be a member of Marine Stewards. We are 100% volunteer run and registered in Singapore as a non-profit. All proceeds and donations are much appreciated and goes towards the cause.

MISS KIT
Fish ID cards, Tape measure, £200 vouchers

EVENTS
Exclusive events, Volunteer excursions, Talks

SUPPORT US
Donate: Sponsor, Products or monetary, Individual or corporate, Volunteer, Events and outreach, Photography and video, Accounting, corporate secretary, admin etc.

MARINE STEWARDS SINGAPORE

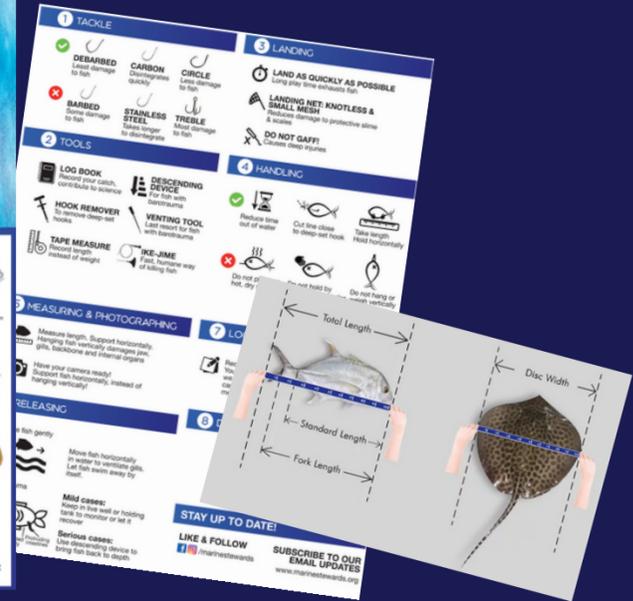
FISHING FOR TOMORROW

RELEASE JUVENILES (Let them grow and reproduce)
NO TAKE (Critically endangered)
ALL TAKE (Invasive species)

WHY CATCH & RELEASE?
Fish grow bigger and breed, Prevents overharvesting, Proven to work.

EVERY ANGLER MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

WANT THE FULL LIST?
Get your Singapore Fish ID cards at: www.marinestewards.org/ishop

SUSTAINABLE FISHING GUIDELINES

After several community engagement sessions, as well as months of working with researchers, we published the Sustainable Fishing Guidelines for Singapore

We expanded the set of materials to include a website, Fish ID cards and brochures. With these tools we are able to educate and spread awareness of sustainable fishing in Singapore



FISHING FOR THE FUTURE

Jan 2020

**100 ATTENDEES. 20 VOLUNTEERS.
17 SPEAKERS**

Our first Community Collaboration for Sustainable Fishing saw great success.

We gathered anglers, researchers, vendors, sponsors and partners for this seminar. Feedback was positive, with participants saying they had fun and benefited from the knowledge shared in the deep dive sessions

LARGEST SURFCAST FISHING COMPETITION

483

PARTICIPANTS

Mar 2020



The 9th Surfcast Competition, sponsored by Zziplex Asia and organized by Fika's Management was held at Pasir Ris Park. Marine Stewards was a Supporting Partner in this event - we worked with competition organiser on the catch and release rules - this was the first surfcast competition to include catch and release in the competition rules!

Marine Stewards volunteered as marshalls on the day, helping with competition logistics, catch recording and releasing of fish. More than 40 juveniles were released that day!



MARINE CONSERVATION ONLINE COMPETITION

Winner - Diana Tai

July 2020 - Oct 2020



GRAND PRIZE

**MARINE CONSERVATION
ONLINE COMPETITION!**

FULL BOAT CHARTER!

SHARE WHAT IT MEANS TO CONSERVE
OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT!

POST IT TO THE MARINE STEWARDS FACEBOOK GROUP, POST WITH THE MOST LIKES PLUS SHARES WINS!

Post Here -> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/marinestewards/>

X2 BONUS
IF YOU
JOIN AS A
MEMBER!

GRAND PRIZE CONTEST PERIOD: 1 JULY 2020 - 31 OCTOBER 2020 (UPDATED)

MONTHLY PRIZE CONTEST PERIOD: 1ST OF MONTH TO END MONTH

REFER TO TERMS & CONDITIONS

ACTUAL PRIZE LURE MAY DIFFER FROM LURES SHOWN DEPENDING
ON STOCK AVAILABILITY

SPONSORS

MY FISHING FRENZY ACADEMY

LURE HAVEN

MONTHLY PRIZE!

**Lure by LUREHAVEN



Our very first marine conservation competition! Participants shared what it means to them to conserve our marine environment

Diana Tai sent a video each month and won with the most number of likes and shares! She takes home the grand prize of a FULL BOAT CHARTER on Artemis I!

Congrats Diana! Continue to inspire many fishermen to practice catch and release!

ANNUAL BOAT FISHING COMPETITION BY RAFFLES MARINA

64

PARTICIPANTS / 14 BOATS

Nov 2020



This was the first offshore competition in Singapore to include a Catch and Release category!

Team TNT followed the rules and guidelines provided. By releasing the largest fish that day, they won a night stay at Raffles Marina Hotel, 2 years MSS Membership and MSS welcome kit.

Congratulations Team TNT!

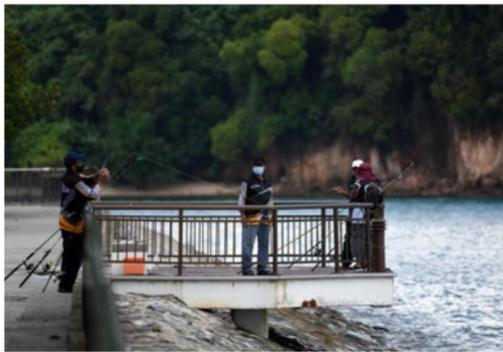


INTERVIEWS, PRESS



THE STRAITS TIMES

Fishing community proposes three sustainable fishing guidelines amid local fishing boom

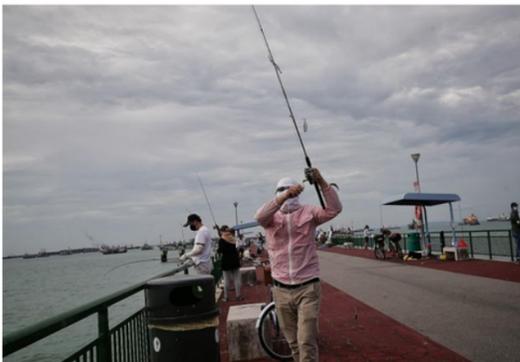


The community proposes a solution to ensure that the rate at which fish is taken from waters in Singapore remain sustainable. PHOTO: AFP

Audrey Tan
Science and Environment Correspondent

THE STRAITS TIMES

Fishing group rolls out sustainability guidelines as more cast their lines



With travel off the cards, anglers in Singapore are casting their lines into the waters more often, raising concerns over the impact on fish stock. Non-profit group Marine Stewards has come up with three sustainability guidelines for fishermen, in collaboration with conservationists and marine scientists. ST PHOTO: KEVIN LIM

Audrey Tan Environment Correspondent

PUBLISHED AUG 24, 2020, 5:00 AM SGT

zao bao

大批龙虎斑放生 钓友闻讯赶来

来自 / 联合晚报
文 / 胡慧音 摄影 / 林国明
发布 / 2021年2月5日 3:13 PM

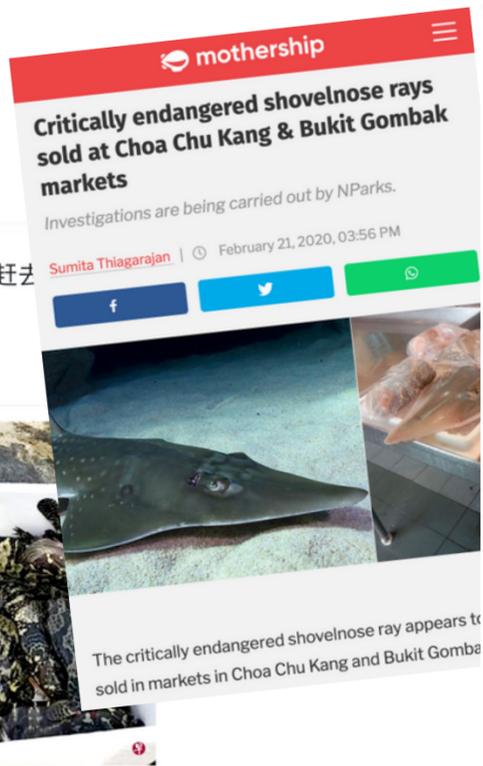


男子钓到很多杂配石斑鱼的消息很快在渔网上传开，钓鱼爱好者纷纷到这里垂钓，希望也能有好收获。（取自渔网）

字体大小: 小 中 大

这边放生，那边钓鱼！有宗教团体被指上个月初放生大批杂配石斑鱼，钓鱼爱好者闻讯后，特地赶到放生地点去垂钓，结果“大有收获”，其中有人一次钓上20多条石斑鱼。

本地海洋保护组织文，称有一批杂

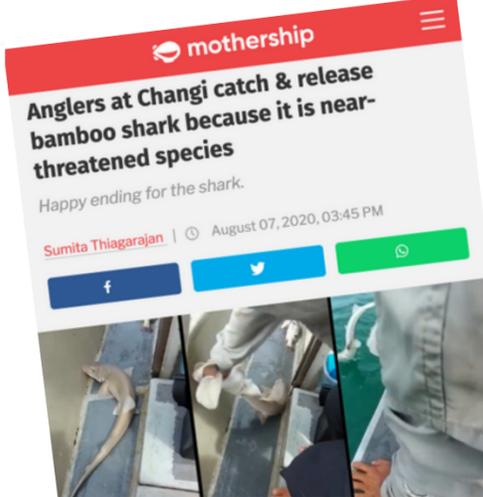


The critically endangered shovelnose ray appears to be sold in markets in Choa Chu Kang and Bukit Gombak.



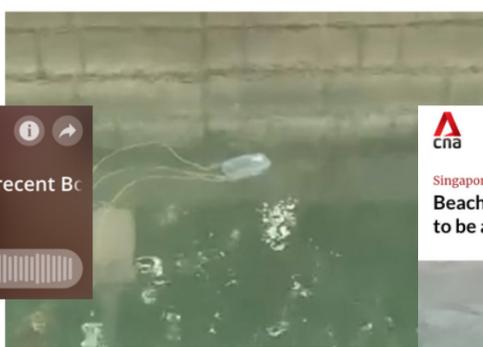
本地巴刹售卖濒危鲟鱼，引起海洋保护组织关注，国家公园局介入调查。

根据本地海洋保护组织Marine Stewards Singapore的面簿，组织义工在蔡厝港和武吉甘柏的巴刹，发现了属于极度濒危物种的鰻鯪（Shovelnose Ray），引起他们关注。

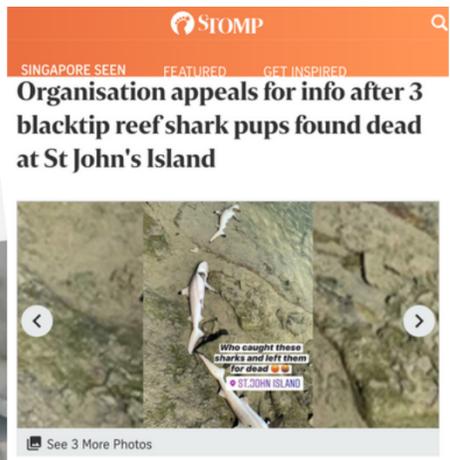


NParks probing venomous box jellyfish sighting

It is working to alert relevant communities, warns public not to handle creature directly

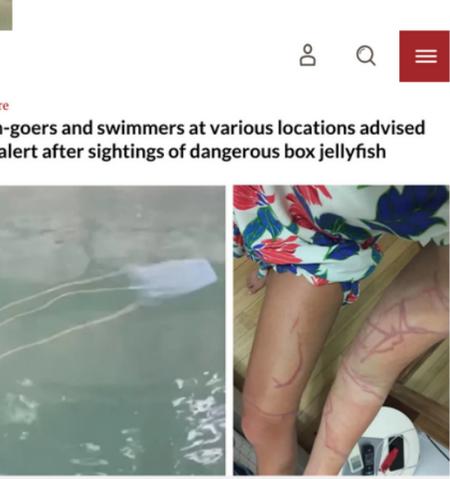


A screenshot of a video of a box jellyfish reportedly spotted in the world. PHOTO: KRISTINA K...



Marine conservation organisation Marine Stewards is appealing for information after three blacktip reef shark

Beach-goers and swimmers at various locations advised to be alert after sightings of dangerous box jellyfish



(Left) Screenshot of a box jellyfish seen at Sentosa in July 2020 and (right) red marks on the legs of a woman who said she was stung by a box jellyfish in March 2020. (Photo: Facebook/Marine Stewards and Haytham El-Ansary)

20 Jul 2020 12:01PM (Updated: 20 Jul 2020 08:05PM)



SAVE THE SHOVELNOSE

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

In 2019, IUCN classified the *Rhynchobatus australiae*, locally known as the Shovelnose Ray - as Critically Endangered. It was then to Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), meaning that international trade is restricted. Marine Stewards initiated much publicity on this topic, that helped to raise awareness amongst consumers and fishermen.

STILL CAUGHT IN SINGAPORE

In 2020 several shovelnose were caught locally. Some were released safely but some were not. Now what remains is for the protection of shovelnose rays that are caught in local waters and consumed locally, as these are not protected under CITES II

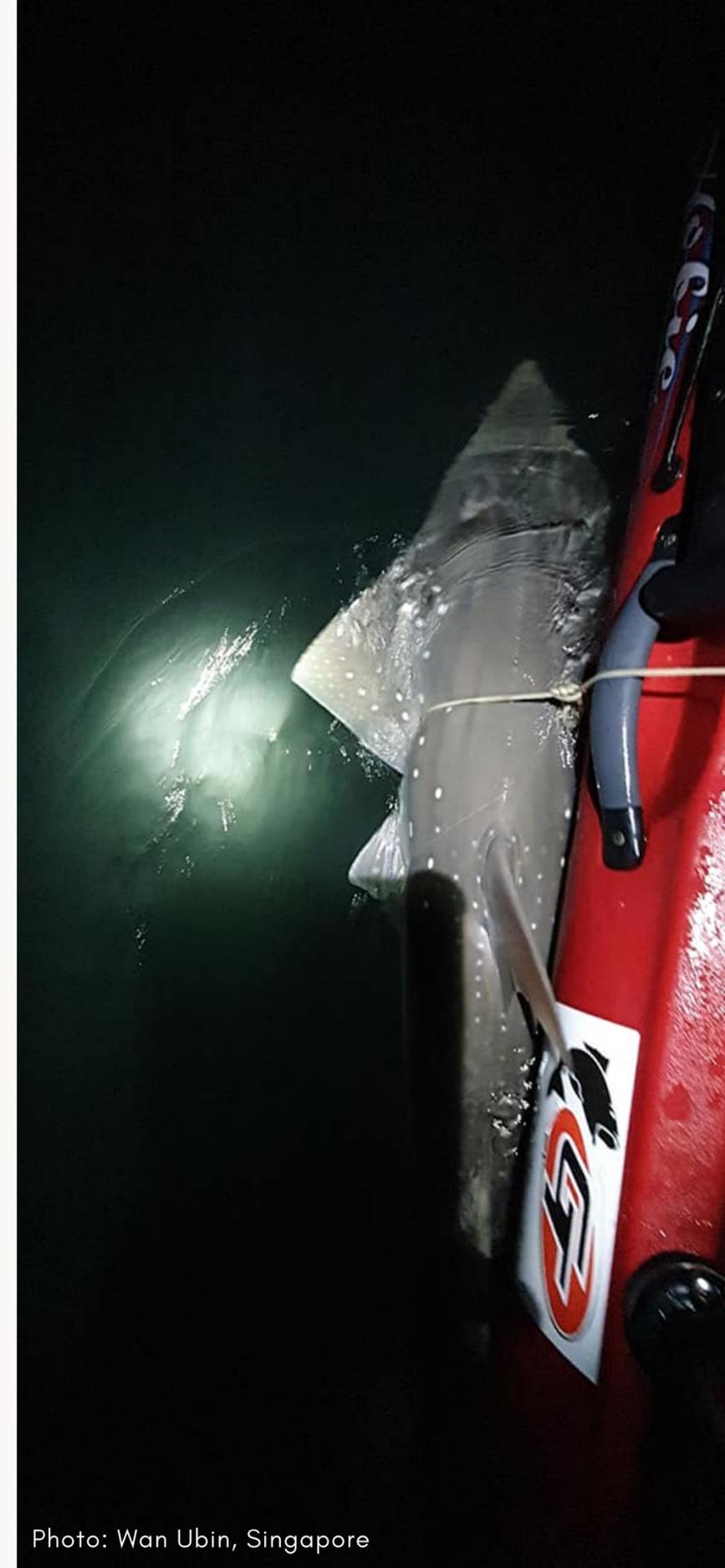


Photo: Wan Ubin, Singapore

CITIZEN SCIENCE

YOU MATTER

What is citizen science? Quite simply, it's members of the public taking actions that contribute to science and conservation!

Marine Stewards and sea sports enthusiasts together are out on the water a lot more than researchers. We see all sorts of sea creatures and ocean conditions - and intuitively know when something is right, wrong, or weird

When you send in your sightings and observations, these are sent to the appropriate researchers who can shed light on the observations, and initiate further action as necessary



TURTLES, DOLPHINS, SHARKS AND RAYS

You name it, we've got it! To say that we're blessed with biodiversity is an understatement. We are... super blessed

All sightings of note were shared with researchers and also entered into BIOME, which serves as a single repository of biodiversity (flora and fauna, plants and animals information of Singapore) and environment related data, contributed by the public, government agencies, educational institutions and NGOs



HRBRID GROUPERS

Bane or boon? It seems like hybridised groupers (an invasive species) are here to stay.

Their long term effects on the ecosystem are still unknown. With their voracious appetites, they compete with native fish for food. There are also risks of them breeding with other species outside of captivity which may cause more strains of hybrid fish.



JELLYFISH

Apart from box jellies, a number of other jellyfish were sighted and reported to researchers.

One of the sightings resulted in the publication of a Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the jellyfish, *Anomalorhiza shawi* by National University of Singapore, Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum

2020 was the year that box jellies stole the show

These mesmerising, mystical creatures captivated our hearts, dreams and nightmares. Over a dozen specimens were sighted and reported

At one location where box jellies had been observed on multiple occasions, Marine Stewards coordinated an adhoc expedition, which led to the successful collection of a box jelly specimen for research purposes

BOX JELLY



Specimen of box jelly being researched in Singapore
Photo: Iffah Iesa, Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum

RESEARCH SUPPORT

SHARK TAGGING

Our members got the chance to participate in several shark tagging trips with Dr Neil Hutchinson of James Cook University

Studying near-threatened species of sharks in Singapore, we put our fishing skills to good use! Sharks are gently tagged, recorded and released

ADHOC PROJECTS

Researchers of many disciplines - fish, marine creatures, corals, even jellyfish reach out to us when we may be able to contribute to their fieldwork or provide insights from our experience at sea

We gladly assist researchers on marine-related projects

GROUPEL RESEARCH

One of the topics raised this year was that of the Hybrid Grouper. This warranted further studies as the impact to ecology is not well understood

Our observations led to the commencement of a research project at National University of Singapore to study grouper behaviour

REPORTING SIGHTINGS

When sightings are reported to us, either by our members or the public, the information may be sent to the relevant researchers or government agencies

These sightings are invaluable, as we have received so many reports of interested subjects that are relevant to marine science and conservation!

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



FRIENDS OF MARINE PARK

Sister's Island Marine Park is Singapore's first and only marine park, and is a precious space to all ocean lovers. Together with the Friends of Marine Park community, we promote sustainable fishing, and bring to light issues that concern the blue community



FRIENDS OF EAST COAST PARK

East Coast Park has a coastline of over 15 km, and ~7.5 million visitors a year – a very popular space for sea sports such as fishing, kayaking, swimming and beach life. Through the Friends of East Coast Park community, Marine Stewards champions responsible and sustainable use of our East Coast



SINGAPORE FOOD AGENCY

We participated in several community engagement sessions related to seafood supply and production, organised by Singapore Food Agency



BENDERA BAY LAUNCH

Dec 2020

Under the Friends of the Marine Park umbrella, we worked together with groups from research, recreation, heritage, and education, to launch this community space





SUPPORT US

Join as a member, or make a donation via our website
www.marinestewards.org

We are registered as a non-profit organisations and
100% of the proceeds go towards our cause

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