

techman / February 23, 2011 06:12PM

[\[Environment\] Researchers Urge: Don't Conveniently Release Fry into the Ocean!](#)

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The Liberty Times (2011/02/21) Fishery Administration releases thousands of fry in the ocean, expecting to increase the fishery resources in Taiwan waters. However, researchers through molecular markers measures find that such a policy is not promising and may cause serious impact on the environment. The ocean according to the findings can restore itself, and the artificial interference may not be that wise. Thus the researchers suggest the government to reconsider the policy.

Professor Jin-Chywan GWO at Department of Aquaculture, National Taiwan Ocean University, noticed the rapid number surge of *Siganus fuscescens*, one common species of reef fish, in the post-Penghu Chilling Injury waters in 2008, which however was not one of the released fry species. So Professor GWO began to collect 150 samples from five different communities and found no proof of population subdivision among these communities scattering at three different sea areas – the communities belong to one metapopulation. That suggests, the shortage number of the shrunk group in the chilling injured area had been made up from other communities. The findings had been published in the Journal of National Taiwan Museum by the end of 2010.

Professor GWO stressed, the loading of the natural environment is limited, and the resources vary periodically in cycle. The government's policy to release fry in the ocean may interfere with the cycle, and the breeding of released fry and the wild fry may cause their internal concurrence and genetic homogeneity. Once they have to face epidemical diseases, they may all extinct together.

CEO of Environment and Animal Society Taiwan Zenghong ZHU (trans. temp., 朱增宏) seconded the motion and said, the restoration of fishery resources cannot only depend on release; more importantly, we need to protect the habitats and prevent pollution.

Associate Professor Ying-Chou LEE at NTU Department of Life Science said, his previous release surveys in Tongsiao Fishing Port indicated that the capture rate of the release fry after one year could reach 22% and that the cultured fry can survive and reproduce better than uncultured fry. Although he stood for the release policy, he pointed out that the government should pay attention to the loading of the environment and to spend more effort on post-release trace and monitoring the ecological status.

Reference:

[The Liberty Times 2011/02/21](#) (Chinese)

[National Science Council International Cooperation Sci-Tech Newsbrief](#)

Edited 3 time(s). Last edit at 02/24/2011 12:06AM by techman.
