想清楚

• *Branchiostegus auratus, B. argentatus, B. japonicus*

來源地: **南中國海，包括香港水域**
一般出售方式: **冰鮮魚，原條出售**
捕撈方法: **刺網**

生態特徵

馬頭生長迅速，只需18至24個月便可繁殖，較能承受漁業壓力。

野生種群狀況

目前欠缺關於本地馬頭魚群數量的準確數據，但大部分的漁獲都是幼魚，顯示這個物種遭過度捕撈。

意外捕撈

漁民利用刺網捕撈馬頭，意外漁獲屬中等水平，約佔總漁獲量20%。

對環境的影響

刺網較少觸碰到海床，對海床影響輕微，但有海洋動物經常被棄置於海中的漁網纏住。

漁業管理

本港和南中國海的馬頭漁業管理體制效果不彰。香港沒有實行漁業管理，缺乏漁獲品種體積限制、捕撈牌照制度或捕撈配額制度。中國設有若干管理措施，可惜執法不力。

摘要

馬頭能承受漁業壓力，但魚群表面上遭過度捕撈。有關漁業產生的意外漁獲量屬中等水平，採用的捕撈方法對海床生態系統影響輕微。唯整體而言，本港和南中國海的馬頭漁業管理措施成效不彰。

Think Twice

• *Branchiostegus auratus, B. argentatus, B. japonicus*

Origin: The South China Sea including Hong Kong waters
Mainly sold as: Fresh whole fish
Fishing method: Gill netting

Biology

Horsehead grow relatively fast and can become sexually mature between 18 and 24 months, so they are not particularly susceptible to fishing pressure.

Status of wild populations

Although there is no accurate figure for local horsehead stocks, the fact that a lot of the individuals caught are juveniles indicates that the species is over-exploited.

Bycatch

Gill nets are used to catch horsehead, generating a moderate amount of undesirable bycatch and discards - about 20% of the total catch.

Impacts on the environment

Gill netting has little impact on the seabed because the contact between nets and the seafloor is minimal. However, marine creatures are frequently entangled by nets that have been lost or abandoned in the sea.

Fisheries management

Fishery management systems for horsehead in Hong Kong and the South China Sea are weak. Fishery regulations are not in place: in Hong Kong, there are no size restrictions, fishing licensing or quota system. Although some management measures are in place in mainland China, enforcement is poor.

Summary

Despite horsehead not being particularly vulnerable to fishing pressure, stocks appear over-exploited. Gill netting generates a moderate quantity of bycatch and causes minimal damage to the seabed. But overall, management measures in place to protect horsehead in the South China Sea are not effective.