Identification Notes for wildlife law enforcement

PROBLEM: *Pangasius sanitwongsei*, an endangered species, is imported for the freshwater aquarium trade; several of the other 20+ species in the genus do not appear to be traded. Of those traded species, *P. sutchi* is very common in the aquarium trade and *P. microneus* and *P. larnaudi* appear in both regional aquiculture and the aquarium trade. *Pangasius sanitwongsei* has been found in aquarium trade shipments.

**Pangasius dorsal fins**

- No ray extension
- Slight ray extension

**P. sanitwongsei**

- Ray extension obvious

In *P. sanitwongsei*, the vomero-palatine teeth are united in a single broad arch. Vomerine and palatine teeth in other *Pangasius* may be united or separated, but *NEVER* appear as a continuous broad arch (observable in dead specimens).

**IDENTIFICATION**

1. No fin ray extension% ................................................................. 2
   Fin ray extensions present ............................................................ 3

2. Body silver with black bands head to tail; head width:body length ratio 1:8.............. *P. sutchi*
   Body dark, unhandled; head width:body length ratio 1:7.............................. *P. microneus*

3. Black humeral spot, head width:body length ratio 1:6, fin ray extensions slight........... *P. larnaudi*
   White humeral spot, head width:body length ratio 1:4, fin ray extensions obvious ........ *P. sanitwongsei*

The white humeral spot in *P. sanitwongsei* may appear as an extension of the white ventral area.
Fin rays may be cut, broken, or eroded by transportation or water quality.

WATCH FOR Invoices stating *Pangasius* spp. or High Fin Catfish.

FROM: Southeast Asia, especially Thailand.

OTHER Mostly juveniles traded; commercial propagation of pangasiids started in Thailand in the 1960s.

REFERENCES:


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