

8th Indo-Pacific Fish Conference, Fremantle, Australia, 11 May – 05 June 2009
(<http://www.ipfc2009asfb.com>)

Symposium: Trophic role of large apex predatory fish in the Indo-Pacific ecosystems

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Large predatory fishes of Indo-Pacific region are represented by the variety of different species, including tropic and subtropic pelagic sharks, barracudas, lancetfish, daggertooth, tunas and billfishes, etc.; North Pacific halibuts, sablefish, large skates, cod; Antarctic toothfishes, etc. However, diet compositions and forage resources consumed by these large predators are studied insufficiently and level of feeding competition between them is largely unknown. Meanwhile, many of large predators are important targets (e.g. tunas, billfishes, halibuts, cod, sablefish, toothfishes) of trawl, longline, net, pot, trap, and troll fisheries. These fisheries may impact ecosystem structure, e.g. if large top predators are overfished, abundance of forage fishes may increase or one predatory fish might be replaced by another. The knowledge of feeding habits and trophic relations of large top predatory fishes might help to understand fluctuations of their abundance and to make exploitation of their resources sustainable.

Symposium themes:

1. Diet composition of large predators and forage resources consumed by them in different areas of Indo-Pacific
2. Trophic relations between large top predators
3. Fisheries impact to ecosystem structure through harvest of both large top predators and/or their forage resources

These are main topics within the theme of symposium but papers related to other relevant topics within symposium overall theme are encouraged.

Participation: Colleagues interested to attend this symposium should contact me (see email addresses above) detailing their proposed contributions (prospective title, oral or poster) **before 28th January** at the latest. See you in Australia!

Please forward this information to all colleagues who might be interested in such a symposium and potentially contribute to it.