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Horizontal and vertical movement of Mekong giant catfish *Pangasianodon gigas* in the Mea peum reservoir

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Mekong giant catfish or the *pla buk* in Thai, *Pangasianodon gigas*, is one of the largest freshwater fish in the world, and is endemic to the Mekong basin. The biggest one recorded was around 300 kg with the total length of approximately 3 m. Although it becomes high-degree endangered species listed in the IUCN Red List, little is known of the ecology and feeding habitats. We started Mekong giant tracking project (MCTP) since 2001. The objective of this project is to clarify the behavioral ecology of the Mekong giant catfish and to conserve this species. In this paper, the latest results of the study conducted in the Mea peum reservoir where is located in the Phayao province, Thailand is introduced. Eight Mekong giant catfish were released in the reservoir with coded ultrasonic transmitter inside their body cavity in 2003. The tagged fish were monitored by 14 receivers covering all over the reservoir for approximately 70 days. The tagged catfish stayed mainly around deep areas in the reservoir during our experiment and seemed to be nocturnal because it migrated at night more than in the daytime in the reservoir. Also the catfish moved up to the surface at night and moved down in the daytime diurnally.

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