031

Development of a new device for recapturing free swimming fish

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Mekong giant catfish is one of the largest freshwater catfish in the world, and is endemic to the Mekong basin. It is endangered species. We have studied the Mekong giant catfish to conserve and enhance its resource using biotelemetry since 2001. In the Mea peum Reservoir in 2003, we found that the catfish vertically moved down only above the thermo cline in the daytime and up to the surface layer in the nighttime diurnally. This diurnal vertical movement appears to be related to the feeding behavior. However, prey items of the catfish are still unknown. One of the methods to know the prey items is to examine stomach contents of the catfish in the daytime and the nighttime respectively. In order to examine the stomach contents related to the time, it is necessary to recapture the catfish at any time when we want to know. Therefore, we have a plan to develop the new device named an Automatic Fish Recapture System (AFR System) to recapture the free swimming fish at the set time. In this paper, the outline of the AFR System is introduced.

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