

海龜點點名：新模式、新紀錄、潛水員的新興力量

Turtlespot Taiwan: new interactions, new records and the emerging power
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“TurtleSpot Taiwan” is a citizen scientist project that began in June 2017. It was initiated by a group of divers using social media as a platform to collect sighting and photograph records of sea turtles. Photographs are then used to identify individual turtles by their facial scute pattern, using the software “HotSpotter”. The collected information was then used to establish an online sea turtle database. We have received 275 records, identifying 123 individuals (113 of *Chelonia mydas* and 10 of *Eretmochelys imbricata*) since June 2017 to November 2017 (still updating). With participation from voluntary divers, the speed of data collection is much faster than most previous studies, conducted solely by researchers. Scuba diving instructors and amateur underwater photographers reported the majority of records, which increases the quality of pictures and reliability. Liuchiu Island comprised of 86.6 % of the sightings reported with the largest amount of sightings from one dive resulting in 43 individuals spotted. Other sightings were spread out over different locations around Taiwan, including Kenting, Penghu Islands, Green Island and Kinmen. Sea turtles with severe shell injury and fibropapillomatosis (FP) have been reported in some sighting reports. With the participation of local divers, we are able to monitor the physical condition of these individuals to record the recovery progress of the shell and update information to local government and veterinarians. New interactions through social media and public workshops allow us to learn the first-hand experiences from local divers. We wish to raise conservation needs and the awareness of sea turtles in Taiwan through these cooperation platform and immediate information exchanged on sea turtles.

Turtlespot Taiwan: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/turtlespotintw/>

關鍵字 (Keywords): 海龜 (sea turtle)、公民科學 (citizen science)、開放資料 (open data)、保育 (conservation)、影像辨識 (photo identification)