

COMPOSITION AND OCCURRENCE OF FISH LARVAE IN MANGROVE AREAS ALONG THE EAST COAST OF PHUKET ISLAND, WESTERN PENINSULAR, THAILAND.

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ABSTRACT

Fish larvae and juveniles were collected during the night, at Ao Sapum, Ko Maprao and Ko Yao Yai, from April 1979 to December 1980. The penaeid postlarvae of the same collections have already been described.

A total number of 21,534 fish larvae was found representing 44 families. At the seaward site of Ao Sapum, 17,990 preadult fishes were found, representing 41 families. In the mangrove channel at Ko Maprao 1,837 individuals were collected representing 24 families. At Ko Yao Yai a few samples from a mangrove channel and a seaward site gave 1,707 individuals representing 21 families. Gobiid larvae accounted for 64% of the specimens. Engraulid and clupeid larvae were also relatively common. At all stations the young fishes were more abundant at the surface than at the bottom. Several of the families showed maximum numbers during the South West monsoon. The characteristics of each family of fish larvae found are described and their occurrence discussed.