
Diversity of reef fish in Had Khanom-Mu Ko Thale Tai National Park, Nakhon Si Thammarat

Jirapong Jeewarongkaku¹, Sakanan Plathong² and Set Songploy³

¹World Wild Fund for Nature, Thailand Office, Pathum Thani, Thailand, e-mail: jirapong_j@hotmail.com, ²Prince of Songkla University, Songkhla, Thailand, ³Ramkamhang University, Bangkok, Thailand

Data collection for a reef fish study was conducted 3 times in February, May and July, 2007, around Had Khanom - Mu Ko Thale Tai National Park at 5 stations: Ko Wang Nai, Ko Wang Nok, Ko Rab, Ko Mud Sum and Ko Tan. Coral reefs of each island were located on reef flats on the leeward and windward sides and on reef slopes on the leeward and windward sides. 97 species of reef fish were recorded during the study period. The dominant fish families were Pomacentridae (23 species) and Labridae (14 species). Fish community diversity did not differ significantly ($p > 0.05$) between island or between windward and leeward sides of each island while species abundances and numbers on reef slopes and reef flats showed significant differences among all stations ($p < 0.05$). The number of species in the reef slope fish communities was higher than in the community of reef flat areas. On the other hand, the diversity index and evenness index of the reef flat were higher than for the reef slope. From this study it was obvious that there were two types of fish community: the fish community of reef flats and the fish community of reef slopes. However, data on fish populations in different seasons should be collected in order to get more information on fish community patterns.