

## **A REVIEW OF LARVAL FISH DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE IN THE ANDAMAN SEA, THAILAND**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Classification, abundance and distribution of fish larvae in the Andaman Sea are summarized from studies in Phang-Nga Bay, its mangrove channels, along the west coast of Thailand, and at the shelf front. From 6 studies in the Andaman Sea, 123 families of fish larvae have now been recorded. The proportion of larvae of demersal fish was 70-80 % of all larvae captured while the rest belonged to pelagic fish. Diversity and abundance of larvae of commercial families were high in Phang-Nga Bay and coastal waters but low at off-shore sites. Just a few families contained high numbers of larvae. High larval abundance at some locations, e.g south of Surin and Phuket islands, may indicate spawning grounds in the vicinity. Carangid larvae were the most abundant and distributed all over the areas. An entire annual cycle was studied. Fish larvae occurred most abundantly between January and March which coincided the peak pelagic productivity.