SPECIES COMPOSITION AND ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH OF FISHES IN FRONT OF A MANGROVE IN PHANG-NGA BAY, THE ANDAMAN SEA, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

Fish were collected in front of mangrove canals in Phang-Nga Bay during 14 cruises from January 1992 to January 1993. A total of 14,180 fish individuals were captured by a small otter trawl. They belonged to 44 species from 31 families. Flatfishes were not identified to species level. Johnius belengerii was most abundant. About half of the whole collection, both in terms of weight and number of individuals, belonged to this species. Pennahia macrrophatha, Platyccephalus indicus and Arius caelatus were also common in the area. The average catch rate was quite low, only 18.6 kg/hr. During the wet southwest monsoon, the catch rate appeared higher than in the dry northeast monsoon. The highest catch rate was recorded in August 1992 (41 kg/hr). Length-weight relationships of 12 species were plotted as well as length-frequency of the 2 most abundant species. Growth rates were estimated at 2 cm per month. Recruitment was evident every half a year.