

**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 macrophthamus*, *Platycephalus 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.