

REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED CORAL COMMUNITIES IN THAILAND: LESSONS FROM THE PAST AND A PERSPECTIVE VIEW By Thamasak Yeemin: Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Ramkhamhaeng University, Huamark, Bangkok 10240, THAILAND:— This paper provides information on degraded coral communities in Thai waters and possible rehabilitation methods. The data from over two decades of coral studies in Thailand clearly shows that there were several severe natural and anthropogenic disturbances on coral communities, *e.g.*, strong typhoons, heavy sedimentation, nutrient enrichment, dynamite fishing, boat anchoring, boat grounding, diving, etc. Rehabilitation methods of deteriorated coral communities were based on objectives, timescales of recovery and conditions of degraded coral communities. Larval supply, settlement and recruitment of planulae, regeneration of damaged corals, fragmentation and consolidation of substrata were very important factors in the planning of rehabilitation programmes. Methods of coral community rehabilitation included coral transplantation and trans location, reattachment of coral fragments, providing artificial substrata, coral cultivation, prevention measures, and mitigation of damaged coral reefs. Certain methods of coral community rehabilitation are considerably expensive and generally would be applied only in protected areas for eco-tourism.