

COASTAL AND OFFSHORE PRIMARY PRODUCTION ALONG THE WEST COAST OF THAILAND (ANDAMAN SEA) WITH NOTES ON PHYSICAL-CHEMICAL VARIABLES.

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ABSTRACT

Pelagic primary production (PP) data were obtained by the ¹⁴C method. *In situ* incubations were made during March-April 1982 and January-February 1983 along the west coast of Thailand in coastal and offshore areas with depths from 8 to 77 m. PP was generally high in the northern area in 1983 compared to 1982 the opposite was found in the southern area. Mean PP was 821 mgC m⁻² d⁻¹ (range 305–2,440) in 1982, and 888 mgC m⁻² d⁻¹ (range 457–1,111) in 1983. Chlorophyll-*a* concentrations were slightly higher in the northern area in 1982 than in 1983 but much higher (> 50%) in the southern area during the same years.

Physical and chemical variables were measured but no correlation could be established at this stage with PP because of complicated, interrelated processes. Temperature-salinity relationships indicated a thermocline at 40 and 45 m depth in 1982 and 1983, respectively. Upwelling is suggested to be of importance for high levels of PP measured in the study area.