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**A SURVEY OF FISH FAUNA AT THE CAPE PANWA REEF,
SOUTHEASTERN PHUKET**

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ABSTRACT

Fishes inhabiting a coastal area of the Cape Panwa reef site, in front of the Phuket Marine Biological Center, were investigated from 1991 to 1997. Data were collected by underwater observations and also from identification of specimens collected from gill nets, hand nets, hand spears, and ichthyocide poisoning. A total of 304 species, belonging to 57 families, were recorded with 32 new records for the west coast of Thailand. The majority of fishes were reef-associated species. Discrete distributions and community composition were typical of the most abundant and conspicuous species within each habitat zone (rocky shore, sand flat, reef flat, reef front and forereef). This study reveals a relatively high diversity of fish species occurring on a degraded fringing reef.