

**THE FISHES OF SOUTHWESTERN THAILAND, THE ANDAMAN SEA—A REVIEW OF RESEARCH AND A PROVISIONAL CHECKLIST OF SPECIES**

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**ABSTRACT:** A brief review of recent ichthyological research and compiled results on the records of fishes from the Andaman Sea coast of Thailand are presented. A total of 1,746 species in 198 families of fishes are currently known from the area. The 10 most speciose families are the Gobiidae (227 species), Labridae (78), Pomacentridae (71), Serranidae (61), Apogonidae (60), Blenniidae (52), Carangidae (52), Scorpaenidae (49), Lutjanidae (39) and Chaetodontidae (37), and these together account for 42% of the total fish fauna. The ichthyofauna is dominated by reef-associated fishes (983 species) and pelagic/benthic fishes inhabiting offshore habitats (971 species). A zoogeographic analysis reveals a peculiarity of the fauna of this marginal-sea region, *viz.*, being one of the areas of sympatry of Indian and Pacific Ocean fishes, as well as harbouring regional endemics. The PMBC Reference Collection currently contains examples of only about 63% of the fishes known from the area, indicating a need for further local sampling campaigns and/or international collaborative exploratory research programs in the Andaman Sea to build up the Reference Collection.

**Keywords:** Thailand, Andaman Sea, fishes, checklist, diversity.

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