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 sympathy 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.