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ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION FORM

Abstract

CORAL REEF RESTORATION AFTER THE TSUNAMI: A CASE STUDY FROM THAILAND

Petthongma, R.* and Yeemin, T.

Marine Biodiversity Research Group, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Ramkhamhaeng University, Bangkok 10240, Thailand

The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami caused severe damage on certain coral reef sites in the Andaman Sea, Thailand, especially at Koh Phai Island, Krabi Province. Most coral damages were found in shallow areas. The main types of damage to corals were: i) colony which has been turned over, and ii) branches or portions of coral colonies broken off. After the tsunami, a volunteer diving group led by Save Whaleshark Thailand Association in collaboration with researchers from Ramkhamhaeng University has worked for a coral reef restoration project. The different restoration methods were applied, i.e. repositioning some overturned coral and fixing scattering live coral fragments on appropriate substrates. The study revealed that three months after the tsunami, about 40% of marked overturned coral colonies lost their live tissues on the top while about 30% showed no change of live tissues. Only 11% of marked overturned colonies naturally recovered. For repositioned coral colonies, 54% increased their live tissues while only 5% completely died. The results of fixing live coral fragments on naturally dead branching coral substrate revealed that 66% of fragments increased their live tissues while only 5% of fragments died. The project provides several lessons for future collaboration works. Moreover, the data can be applied for coral reef restoration, biodiversity conservation, sustainable uses of coral reefs and community participation for coral reef restoration, monitoring programs and public awareness.

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