

Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium

June 18 – 24, 2006, 2006, The Chinese University of Hong Kong,
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION FORM

Abstract

CORAL RECRUITMENT IN TSUNAMI AFFECTED CORAL REEFS OF SURIN ISLANDS, THE ANDAMAN SEA

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Mu Koh Surin is a group of offshore islands in the Andaman Sea, located about 60 km from mainland of Phang Nga Province, southern Thailand. It is recognized as one of the best diving spots in the world. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami caused severe damage of certain reef sites, especially those located in channels between islands which lie in east-west direction such as channel between South Surin Island and Torinla Island. The present study examined impacts of the tsunami on coral recruitment at Mu Koh Surin by using field observation on juvenile coral colonies and settlement plate experiments. Densities of juvenile colony at Ao Mai Ngam, Ao Pagkard, Ao Tao and Ao Maeyai of Surin Island decreased 8.8, 8.3, 2.8 and 1.5 colonies/m², respectively. The main groups of decreased juvenile coral were *Galaxea*, *Fungia*, *Pocillopora*, *Acropora* and *Porites*. The settlement plate experiments showed that there was much variation of coral recruitment rates, the highest at Ao Maeyai and the lowest at Ao Jak. The main groups of coral recruits on settlement plates were *Porites*, *Acropora* and *Pocillopora*. The present study explains natural recovery trends at certain affected reefs. Certain reef sites which had suffered high impacts should be closed to assist natural recovery without human interference.

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