

## Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium

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### ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION FORM

#### Abstract

#### CORAL COMMUNITIES ON PINNACLE IN THE EASTERN GULF OF THAILAND

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Many coral communities can be found on pinnacles in the Gulf of Thailand and several of them are famous diving sites. Unfortunately, very little is known about their structures and changes. Two coral communities on pinnacles at Hin Lukbat and Hin Krajuang in Trat Province, the eastern Gulf of Thailand were examined quantitatively by line transect method. Hin Lukbat had live coral coverage about 60-80% in a depth range of 1-18 m. The dominant coral species were *Porites lutea*, *Pocillopora damicornis*, *Turbinaria* sp. *Galaxea fascicularis* and *Faviids*. The coral zonation was obviously observed. Other dominant macrobenthic animals were sea anemone, soft coral, sea fan, sea whip, zoanthid and sponge. Hin Krajuang was 10-18 m. in depth with live coral coverage 40-60%. A large number of juvenile coral colony was observed. The dominant corals were faviids, *Lithophyllum undulatum*, *Fungia* spp. and *Porites lutea*. Other macrobenthos, such as soft coral, sea fan, sea whip, sponge and sea urchin, were also found abundantly. Mapping, long-term monitoring and management of coral communities on pinnacle in the Gulf of Thailand are urgently required.

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