

Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium

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ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION FORM

Abstract

SOCIOECONOMIC ASPECTS OF CORAL REEF DEGRADATION IN THE GULF OF THAILAND

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Balance of sustainable use and reef conservation is critical for coral reef management. Coral reef health is affected by anthropogenic disturbances, but also the livelihoods of people living in coastal tropical communities depend on the marine resource conditions. Ecology, uses and management of coral reef cannot be studied in isolation. The present study examines socioeconomic aspects of coral reef degradation in Koh Tao, Surat Thani Province, Thailand by field observation, semi-structured interviews, focus group interviews, coral histories and surveys. Major threats to coral reef in the study sites were coral damage caused by diver, waste from boat, trawling, boat anchoring, sediment and waste from coastal and tourism development, using fishing trap in coral reef area, collecting reef organism, dynamite fishing and chemical fishing. It is urgently needed to implement stronger interventions of the complex livelihood strategies of stakeholders to prevent and reduce environmental impacts on coral reefs, especially from tourism, fisheries and coastal development.

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