

BASIC KNOWLEDGE IN MARINE SCIENCES

Edited by

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Introduction

Fish communities are major resources of coral reef. Fish species interact closely with their habitat for the majority of their lives. They play an important role in the coral reef ecosystem such as grazers for controlling algal growth and are commercially important for the fisheries industry. According to Benfield *et al.* (2008), there are a lot of factors which influence reef fish communities such as benthic diversity, habitat complexity, live coral cover, macroalgal cover, depth and exposure. Therefore, assessment on reef fish assemblages is important in order to determine species density and estimate fish resources by observing reef fish recruit.

Coral reef fish populations are assessed by visual census of the fishes along 50 meter transects. This assessment is being done during daylight hours using SCUBA and should be done in conjunction with the LIT method. This coral reef fish survey is aimed to detect differences in assemblages of reef fishes at different sites.

Methodology

List of Equipment/Apparatus

- i. SCUBA equipment
- ii. Boat with outboard motors and safety equipment
- iii. Pencil and slates with prepared data sheets.
- iv. Measuring tapes with 50 meter length.
- v. Underwater video camera/ Camera