

## SPECIES AND ABUNDANCE OF DINOFLAGELLATE CYSTS IN THE SURFACE SEDIMENT OF ANG SILA, SI RACHA, AND LAEM CHABANG AREA

**DUSIT SRIVILAI<sup>1</sup>, THAITHAWORN LIRDWITAYAPRASIT<sup>2</sup>, AND SOMPOP RUNGSUPHA<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Fisheries, Rajamangala Institute of Technology Chanthaburi campus, Chanthaburi 22210, Thailand

<sup>2</sup>Department of Marine Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok 10330, Thailand

<sup>3</sup>Aquatic Resources Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Study on the species and abundance of dinoflagellate cysts in the surface sediment has been conducted by Chulavijai research vessel at 14 stations around Ang Sila, Si Racha, and Laem Chabang areas. Two cruises were operated for this study. The first cruise was conducted during the period of February 3 – 5, 2002 that represented the dry season samples. The second cruises was conducted during the period of September 7 – 9, 2002 that represented the rainy season samples. Twenty-five types of cysts were found of which belonged to order Gonyaulacales, Gymnodiniales, Peridiniales. The dominant species were cysts of *Pheopolykrikos hartmannii* and *Pyrophacus steinii* and the most common species were *Pheopolykrikos hartmannii*, *Gonyaulax spinifera* (*Spiniferites mirabilis*), *Lingulodinium polyedrum*, *Pyrophacus steinii*, *Protoperidinium pentagonum*, and *P. leonis*. The illustration, description and key for cyst identification in this area have also been prepared.

Dinoflagellate cysts were widely found in almost stations of the study area. Total numbers of dinoflagellate cysts in dry season was higher than rainy season. The abundance of dinoflagellate cysts in both seasons was high at the stations with deeper than 10 meter around Ang sila and Bang Pra areas and low abundance at the station near Laem Chabang areas.