Thesis Title The Economic Importance and Seasonal Variations of *Acetes, Lucifer* and *Mesopodopsis* at Tambon Khlong Khon , Samut Songkhram Province.

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ABSTRACT

Khlong Khon estuary is situated in Samut Songkhram Province. Sampling stations were divided into three zones: in mangrove creeks, mudflats and further out. Sampling was done during spring tide, both low and high tides, collected monthly from April 1994 to March 1995. The zooplankton samples for this study were collected by a Marutoku net of 0.45 m diameter with mesh aperture of 330 microns. The samples were collected by horizontal towing, near the surface of the water for five minutes at each station.

Mysids and *Acetes* were found to be the important groups for *gapi* economically (shrimp paste) production. At the same time, the socio-economic importance of zooplankton was studied. Eighteen important taxa of zooplankton were found. Copepod was the most abundant and dominant group of zooplankton. *Acetes, Lucifer* and *Mesopodopsis* were found thoughout the year. *Acetes* spp. population was highest in November, while *Lucifer hanseni* and *Mesopodopsis orientalis* were highest in July and April-May, respectively. The number and kind of zooplankton which were captured by zooplankton net and local equipment was compared.