

CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

1. The ponyfishes (Leiognathidae) and silver-biddies (Gerreidae) in Thai waters comprise 25 species, of 5 genera, they are 1 species of *Gazza*, 12 species of *Leiognathus*, 3 species of *Secutor*, 8 species of *Gerres*, and 1 species of *Pentaprion*.

2. The records of *Gazza achalmys*, *Leiognathus berbis* and *L. dussumieri* for Thailand have been historically reported from times to times ; but there have been no good vaucher specimens or new collections to support or confirm the findings. However, the capture of the species in Thai waters is still very possible.

3. For leiognathids, identification relies principally on a combination of body proportions, mouth shape and thier orientation, presence or absence of scales on breast, tooth shape and their arrangement, and body pigmentation patterns.

For gerreids, identification relies principally on a combination of body proportion, body pigmentation patterns, number of transverse scales between fifth dorsal spine and lateral line and number of tubed scales

on lateral line

4. The most common species of any area and at any time in Thailand are *L. brevirostris*, *S. insidiator* and *G. filamentosus*.

The most common edible species are *L. equulus*, *L. fasciatus*, *L. splendens*, *G. abbreviatus*, *G. filamentosus* and *G. oyena*.

The smaller species that have been commonly gathered or piled up awaiting for making fish meal or duck food are *L. brevirostris*, *L. bindus*, *L. elongatus*, *L. leuciscus*, *S. indicus*, *S. insidiator*, *S. ruconius* and *Pentaprion longimanus*.

The rare species are *L. lineolatus* and *L. pan*

Recommendation

Despite the depletion of the local demersal fish stocks, the leiognathids and gerrieds are, however, proportionally ranked among common fishes of the catches. Their importance in ecosystem are possibly very complex and might lead to the recovery of the rich demersal fauna. The followings are, therefore, recommended.

1. For further study, if possible, one should collect the fish by covering months and seasons throughout the year and in some different habitats, e.g., island areas,

seagrass beds and coral reef areas.

2. In field collections, emphasize should also be made for studying the other major or important minor species of other fishes that were caught together. This might to know the status of the fishes by species or their trophic level in the studied areas.

3. Day times and night times with different fishing gears should also be considered.

4. Phyletic relationship between species, genera and families and their related families of Perciformes should be initiated.

