

## Thailand Andaman Provinces

On the west coast, there are six Provinces, namely: Ranong, Phang-Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Trang, and Satun. The west coast of Thailand has a narrow continental shelf and deepens offshore. Inshore, areas within three km have an average depth of about three m. It has a slightly wider area in the north and a narrow area in the south; the latter area comprising mangroves and sea grasses. The bottom for the most part is sand, mud and coral remnants. Tidal currents and along shore flows dominate the water circulation along the Andaman Coast. The water movements vary with the monsoon period, nearshore surface water generally move northward during the northeast monsoon and southward during the southwest monsoon. The water of the northern region (Ranong to Phuket) has a high salinity (32.9-33.4 ppt) due to deep sea upwelling, while the southern region (Phuket to Satun) has a lower salinity range (32.0-32.8 ppt) due to the influence of surface run-off. The temperature range along the Andaman Sea Coast is 27.6-29.3 °C.

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