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Distribution of Nutrients in the Coastal Waters of the Bay of Bengal

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ABSTRACT

The distributions of nutrients (ammonium, nitrite, nitrate, phosphate and silicate) were studied during 14th to 18th February 2013 in the coastal waters of the Bay of Bengal. Marked variations observed with respect to almost all nutrients determined. The detectable ranges of ammonium, nitrite, nitrate, phosphate and silicate were 0.026-23.52, 0.018-0.41, 0.026-4.46, 0.18-7 and 0.37-20.31 μM respectively. The higher concentrations of nutrients were observed on 15th February 2013. Among these five nutrient species studied, silicate showed more pronounced variability. Surface and bottom differences were high with respect to nutrients concentration. Increased mixing water caused by increased wind and wave reaction causes the variation in concentration of nutrients was observed in this study area.

Keywords: Ammonium, Nitrite, Nitrate, Phosphate, Silicate.
