

NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub – Project 10.1 Factsheet

SELTMP 2013: Recreation in the Great Barrier Reef

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Project summary

“SELTMP 2013: Recreation in the Great Barrier Reef” is one of a series of technical reports from the *Social and Economic Long Term Monitoring Program* (SELTMP; NERP Project 10.1) for the GBR region. It presents a snapshot of socio-economic data and indicators relevant to the current state of GBR recreation. It includes a wide range of secondary data as well as the substantial primary data collected through the 2013 SELTMP surveys of 3181 residents from coastal towns adjacent to the GBR (from Cooktown to Bundaberg).

Why the research is needed

Many residents of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) coast enjoy using the GBR for recreation, visiting mainland beaches, islands, reefs, and other habitats for activities such as walking, swimming, fishing, boating, diving, and sight-seeing. Catchment-wide, recreational activities in the GBR (not including beach visits) contribute \$126m directly to the Australian economy¹. An understanding of how residents interact with the GBR, how they value and perceive it, and their willingness to be stewards provides essential insights into this large group, helping to ensure recreational users are considered in future management, and that recreational activities are managed sustainably.

Key findings

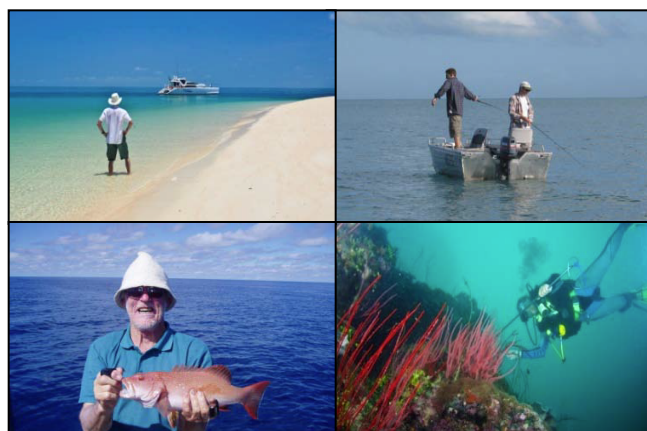
Some of the key findings include:

- 95% of GBR coastal town residents had visited the GBR for recreation at some time, and 87% of residents had visited in the previous 12 months. Of these, 65% had been to a mainland beach, while 35% had been beyond the beach on their most recent trip (68% went beyond the beach at some stage in the previous 12 months). Most were very satisfied with their experience.
- Residents overwhelmingly agreed the aesthetic beauty of the GBR is outstanding and that they were proud that it is a World Heritage Area. They valued the GBR most highly for (1) biodiversity, (2) the economy, (3) lifestyle and (4) science and education.
- The most serious threats to the Reef perceived by coastal residents were (1) climate change, (2) shipping, (3) agricultural run-off, (4) commercial fishing and (5) pollution.



Photo: Renae Tobin, JCU

Coastal town residents enjoy using beaches on the GBR coast for multiple activities



Photos: Andrew Tobin and Steve Sutton, JCU

Most coastal town residents also went 'beyond' the beach for activities such as fishing, boating and diving

Outcomes

- Results from SELTMP Survey 2013 have assisted the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority with their preparation of the 2014 Outlook Report and the Strategic Assessment of the GBRWHA.
- Finalisation of a series of technical reports for each key user group, including “Recreation in the Great Barrier Reef”.

¹Deloitte Access Economics (2013). Economic Contribution of the Great Barrier Reef. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville. Available online: http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/66417/Economic-contribution-of-the-Great-Barrier-Reef-2013.pdf

Find this project at www.nerptropical.edu.au
Theme 3: Managing for resilient tropical ecosystems
Program 10: Socio-economic value of GBR goods and services
Project: 10.1 Social and economic long-term monitoring program

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