ANALYSIS OF USE

76 Review of Selected Recreational and Professional Activities on the Great Barrier Reef

PERIOD: Nov 1976 - June 1977
ORGANIZATION: Private Consultant

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FINANCIAL SUPPORT: GBRMPA - $6,500

OBJECTIVES
To establish an inventory of current scientific research, local advisory organisations and groups (shell collectors, boat owners, etc.) using the Great Barrier Reef Region. To produce a report describing the informal network of communication and liaison, the above inventory, and a geographical description of uses and areas of interest to the organisations and people mentioned.

IMPLICATIONS/MANAGEMENT NEEDS
The development and zoning of a Marine Park requires a detailed knowledge of both current research activities and less formal uses and activities in the Reef Region.

METHODOLOGY
Likely Reef users were identified by several different means and a directory of addresses was developed. Questionnaires were developed and circulated by mail to the various clubs, individuals, professionals and charter boat owners on the directory. The questionnaires were designed to provide general information about their activities, which reefs they were using and how many trips they had made over the last three years. Information was sought about possible conflicts that might arise between different reef users and about their attitudes to conservation. The postal survey was followed up by discussions with various individuals, clubs, professionals and charter boat owners in each of the major coastal towns.

STATUS
The project has been completed.

Recreational and professional users of the Great Barrier Reef Region were identified. The groups contacted in the survey were diving groups, line fishing clubs, shell clubs, boating and sailing clubs, conservation clubs, charter boat owners, professional marine collectors and photographers, and scientists. The activities, areas of use, and attitudes of these groups are presented in the first section of the report.

The second section deals with areas of the Great Barrier reef Region and the ways in which the reefs in each particular area were being used. The areas given separate treatment are the Capricorn-Bunker Reefs, the Keppel Bay area, the Swain and Coral Sea Reefs, the reefs in the Mackay, Whitsunday and Bowen region, the Reefs from Ayr to Cardwell and the reefs in the Cairns district.

Domm, A. 1977. Review of selected recreational and professional activities on the Great Barrier Reef. Report to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.