

Warunyaporn Srisook 2014: Factors Influencing to the Inappropriate Behaviors for SCUBA Diving in Coral Reef. Master of Science (Marine Science), Major Field: Marine Science, Department of Marine Science. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Suchai Worachananant, Ph.D. 135 pages.

The objectives of this research were to study the inappropriate behaviors of SCUBA divers in coral reefs which caused negative impacts to different coral life forms and different reef topographies. This study was conducted by evaluate the influencing factors led to the inappropriate behaviors of SCUBA divers. Quota sampling technique was used to collect data in total of 279 divers. The frequency of divers' inappropriate behaviors was recorded for 10 minutes each. The results were analyzed by descriptive statistics, t-test and One-way ANOVA at 0.05 statistically significant level. The results showed that average numbers of coral contact, coral damage and interference with aquatic animals by divers were 2.20 ± 0.22 , 0.02 ± 0.01 and 1.70 ± 0.20 times (data shown in 10 minutes diving time of each diver), respectively. Comparative study of impact of divers on different coral life forms found that genders and levels of diving experience were statistically different ($p < 0.05$), and impacts of divers on different reef topography differed statistically among genders, nationality, camera possession, pointer possession and levels of diving experience ($p < 0.05$). Results of this study can be used to propose the guidelines and management strategies for conservative and sustainable used of SCUBA diving in coral reefs.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature