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WANPEN ANGKASIRISAP: ASSOCIATION BETWEEN TOURISM BEHAVIORS AND CORAL REEF DEGRADATION: A CASE STUDY OF TAO ISLANDS (KOH TAO) SURATTHANI PROVINCE) THESIS ADVISORS: SUKHUM POOTHONG, M.Sc., SERIRAT PRASUTANOND, M.Sc., 175 p. ISBN 974-664-141-7

The association between tourism behaviors and coral reef degradation is the main purpose of this study. Methodologies used are survey-based research together with analysis through SPSS for Windows application. Statistics taken into consideration are percentage, mean, t-test, ANOVA, Pearson's Product Moment Correlation, Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis and Multiple Classification Analysis.

It was found that association between tourists' knowledge, attitude and behavior has statistical significance at the 0.01 alpha level. Considering Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis, 5 variables statistically significant to the factors affecting behaviors, are diving experience, attitude, training, age and nationality. The overall factors could be explained as having a correlation at 36.8 percent ($R^2 = 0.368$). Regarding Multiple Classification Analysis, the main significant factors are sex, age, diving experience and attitude with 36.9 ($R^2 = 0.369$) correlation. Both analysis techniques gave quite similar results.

In addition, association between local people's knowledge, attitude and behavior had statistical significance at the 0.05 alpha level. Considering Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis, 2 variables statistically significant to the factors affecting behaviors, were attitude and information access. While the former factor were more significant than the latter, both could be jointly explained as having a correlation at 27.9 percent ($R^2 = 0.279$). Regarding Multiple Classification Analysis, the main factors were information access and attitude with 35.1 ($R^2 = 0.351$). Both analysis techniques gave the same results.

Finally, it is recommended that relevant governmental agencies should provide appropriate means of increasing knowledge and an appropriate attitude to tourists and local people. Measures suggested include training local people, distributing publications such as leaflets to tourists, and organizing various activities to promote proper attitude in order to reduce effects on coral reef and to maintain sustainable tourism development.