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Dive Industry Use Patterns and Economic Dependency on Apra Harbor's Coral Reefs.

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Abstract

The island Territory of Guam is about to experience a large U.S. military buildup will set Guam as host of the largest U.S. military presence correspondingly advanced Naval base facilities. Part of Naval base improvements will include significant dredging in Apra Harbor deep-water lagoon. This lagoonal area is not only host to a United States Navy is also host to Guam's commercial port and a highly attractive recreational tourism activities. As a preparatory step before dredging, the island's dive businesses have been surveyed in order to establish baseline information on the use of Apra Harbor's coral reefs and to assess the Navy dredge project might have on dive businesses utilizing Apra Harbor. This study concludes that Apra Harbor's coral reefs are an important asset to Guam's dive businesses, as the reefs are used for approximately 80% of the dives conducted by surveyed businesses. One hundred percent of surveyed businesses use Apra Harbor coral reefs for dive and/ or snorkel trips, which is the industry's largest clientele: novice divers/ snorkelers. Depending on the dredge-based sediment settling on Apra Harbor's reef areas, there has the potential to impact \$1,253,340 in annual total revenues from dive businesses. Given that Apra Harbor's coral reefs are highly utilized by surveyed businesses, it is presumed that dredge-based sediment settling on Apra Harbor's coral reefs will directly impact dive business activity in Apra Harbor both during and after dredging occurs.

Keywords

Guam; Apra Harbor; Dive Industry; Coral Reefs

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