“Exploring snorkeling and scuba diving in the Great Barrier Reef: A review of recreation impacts to marine environments and management actions used to address them”

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Abstract: This report reviews the scientific and professional literature on the impacts of scuba diving and snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef. The review begins with a brief overview of marine environments; including their ecological and economic importance. The second section considers the growth of scuba diving and snorkeling as recreation activities, and the third section reviews a substantive body of research that has examined impacts from these activities. The fourth section of this report discusses snorkeling and scuba diving in terms of recreational carrying capacity and the final section of the report reviews management actions that have been implemented to reduce impacts from snorkeling and scuba diving. A brief conclusion summarizes the major findings of the report with and considers them in the context of the Great Barrier Reef.