

### Activities/Services

- Transport to Johnny Cay
- Transport to Rose Cay & Haynes Cay
- Bay tours
- Mangrove tours
- Sting ray tours
- SCUBA
- Snorkeling
- Sport fishing
- Glass bottom boat tours
- Semi-submarine tours
- Kayak rental
- Kite surfing
- Wind Surfing
- Sun-fish sailing
- Jetski rental
- Reef walking



“We need to manage activities. You can be in Piramide with a group of beginners and there are boats and jet skis over head – that can be very dangerous.”

- Dive shop

## San Andrés Marine Tourism

During a 4 week period 32 owners, managers or senior staff were interviewed from tourism businesses operating directly in the Seaflower Marine Protected Area around San Andrés Island.

Over 98% of the roughly 400 000 annual visitors to San Andrés spend time on the island’s beaches and a wide array of leisure activities have been developed along the coastline to

meet the demands of thousands of vacationers (Castano Isaza, 2011; Secretaria de Turismo, 2011).

This report summarizes data gathered on user density and activity mapping. These interviews also provided insight into management challenges and successes from the operators’ point of view.



During the high season there are up to **3 700** visitors to the Seaflower MPA every day. About half of these tourists are spending time on Johnny, Rose or Haynes Cay.

## Estimated user density

### *High season & low season*

In addition to swimming and sunbathing, roughly 1500 people enter the water daily during the low season to enjoy the Seaflower MPA through diving, snorkeling, reef-walking, sport fishing, wind-surfing, visits to neighbouring cays and a variety of other tours and watersports.

During the high season, this figure more than doubles. According to operator estimates, there are roughly 3 700 people on or in the water each day, excluding swimmers. The majority of visitors to the MPA are spending time on Johnny Cay and Acuario (Rose Cay & Haynes

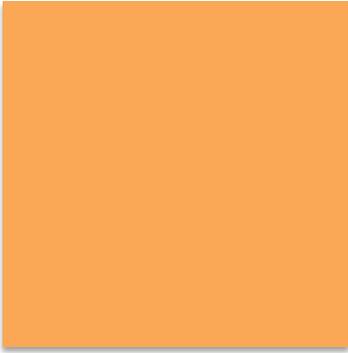
Cay). Bay tours, jetskis, semi-submarine tours and diving are also popular activities.

Operators identified “High season” as July-August, January-December and the Easter holiday break. “Low season” spans the rest of the year.



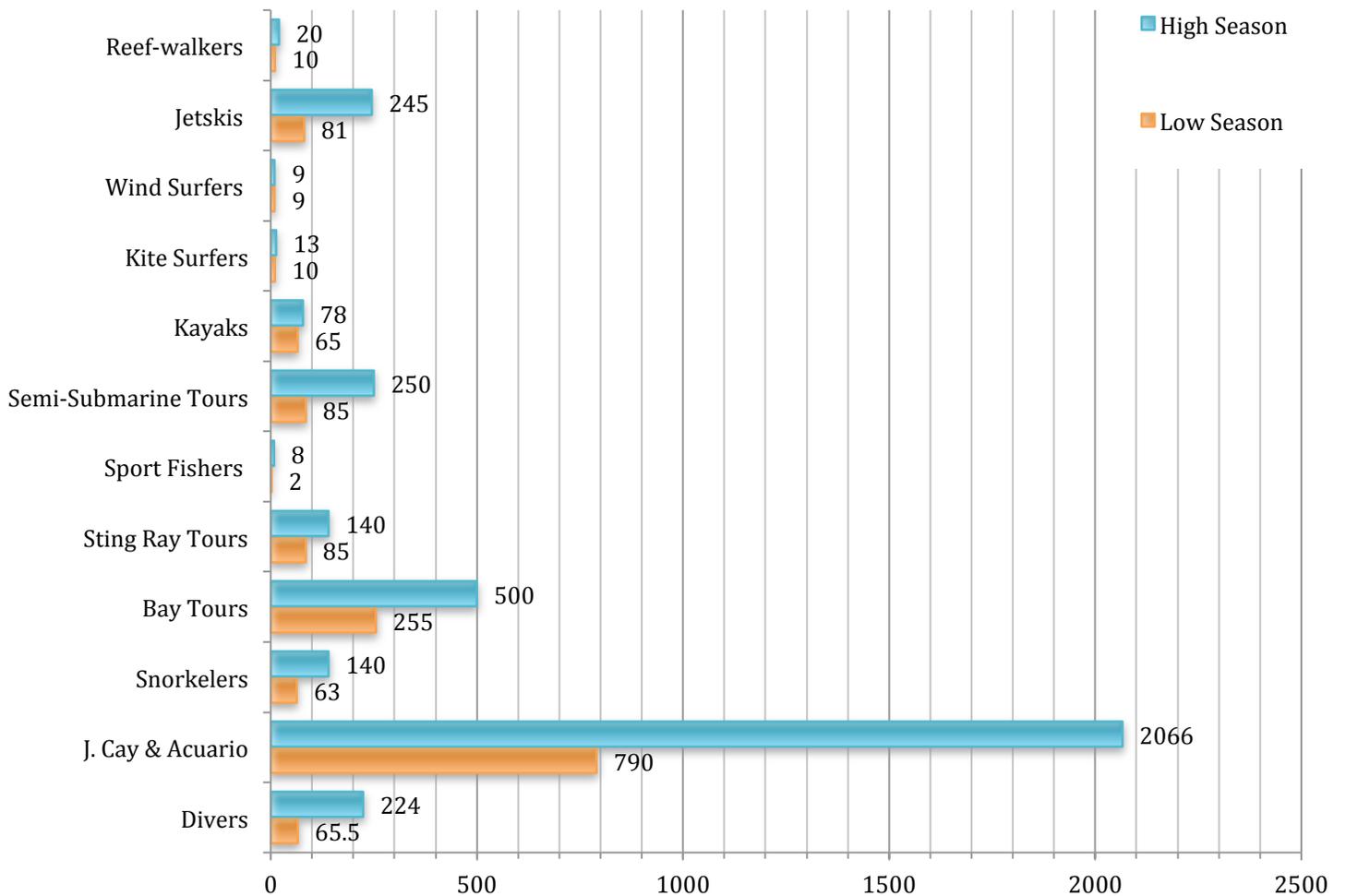
“The elkhorn and brain corals are dying here. Sometimes there is gasoline in the water from the jetskis.”  
- Snorkeling tour

Jet-skis deposit up to 30% of their fuel **unburnt** into the environment (Davenport & Davenport, 2006).



## Daily visitors

Comparing activity groups for daily marine tourism traffic around San Andrés Island



### Leisure Transport

Thirteen of the interview participants offer transport to neighbouring cays:

- Johnny Cay
- Haynes Cay
- Rose Cay

### Jetski Rental

Of five jetski operators, only one requires tourists to travel with a guide. One hotel-based operator has installed flags to indicate shallow coral. The majority of jetski rentals are unrestricted and unguided, including the major operator who runs over 70% of the island's jetskis. You can find jetskis at most beach front hotels and for rent at:

- Casa Cultura
- Rocky Cay
- Sprat Bight

### Mangrove tours

Four operators provide tours through the Old Point mangroves, entering the lagoon on kayaks or paddle boards.

### Bay Tours

Including pirate ships, glass bottom boats and other specialty tours, eleven businesses offer bay tours. Most tours depart from Casa Cultura.

### Semi-Submarine

Two businesses operate 3 semi-

submarine boats for coral reef tours. Permanent moorings for these boats are installed in front of Punta Hansa, near Piramide & Little Reef.

### SCUBA

Thirteen dive shops visit about 30 frequently used dive sites around San Andrés. Those used most often are:

- Trampa Tortuga
- Blue Hole
- Piramide
- Bajo Bonito
- Wild Life
- West Point

### Reefwalking

One business offers customers the opportunity to walk along the sandy bottom near shallow reefs in West View, while wearing a dome helmet with continuous air supply.

### Sting Ray tours

Six businesses advertise Sting Ray tours held in the late afternoon on Rose Cay. These tours use bait to bring string rays into the shallows and allow tourists to touch, hold and photograph them.

### Snorkeling

Snorkeling is offered by 14 operators, however only three provide snorkel tours as their primary activity. The most

popular snorkeling locations are Piramide, Acuario and in front of Hotel Casa Blanca.

“We have a mixed park, you can use different areas for different purposes, but it's not working because there is no way to control it properly yet.”

- Dive shop

### Sport fishing

Six businesses offer tourists the opportunity to book sport fishing trips. Recreational fishing generally takes place on the West coast or beyond the protected areas to the North.

### Kayak rental

Kayaks are available for rent or for guided tours from five operators, including hotel-based rentals.

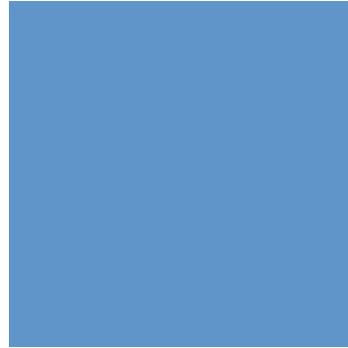
### Wind Surf rental

Four businesses provide wind-surf and sun-fish rentals.

### Kite Surf rental

Kite boards are available at two of the businesses that participated. Kite surfers are often found near Rocky Cay and Acuario when the wind is up.

Despite declining coral cover worldwide, reef visitation is increasing significantly (Bell et al, 2011). Coastal communities around the world, where 350 million people depend on reefs directly for food and other services, are facing the same challenge: how to balance development with conservation (Hodgson & Liebeler, 2002). Tourism, if properly managed, offers an incredible opportunity to blend profit and preservation. This document offers a brief summary of interview results from Emilie Novaczek's marine tourism research in San Andrés. The complete paper combines stakeholder consultation, Limits of Acceptable Change philosophy and scientific ecosystem monitoring to develop goals and tourism management strategies for the Seaflower Marine Protected Area.



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