

# **A Statistical Analysis of Surf Tourism Research Literature**

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## **Abstract**

Surf tourism is a rapidly expanding market segment of the wider tourism industry and the purpose of this study is to provide an analytical representation of surf tourism research literature. Tracing the development of surf tourism research produced from 1997 through 2010, published and unpublished materials were collected through a mixture of inquiry, including the search of a wide range of academic journal databases and communication with authors in the field. A systematic review was employed to identify and statistically analyze the nature and types of research emerging in the field, including the gray literature, journal publications, institutional contributors, and graduate studies leading to degree conferrals and repeat authorship. The study identifies the genesis of surf tourism research as a new body of literature in the touristic academe and serves to frame the history and nature of the field. We find that this new subfield of research has arisen, not by well-known theoreticians writing about it, but by graduate students and consultants first, and academics later, and this is evident in the gray literature and degree conferrals leading to a variety of publications in the field. More than fifty percent of the total research has been produced in the previous five years. Key topics in surf tourism include coastal research, ecotourism, sustainable tourism, tourism management, and socioeconomics, wherein sustainability, management and surfing events are the most prolific areas under discussion to date. An appendix provides a bibliography of 118 pieces of research included for review.

Key words: surf tourism; systematic review; interdisciplinary; sustainability; management

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## 1. Introduction

Although surf tourism is a globally expanding market segment, limited material has been published with reference to the field of study. A wealth of surf tourism research published in the recent decade provides the impetus for the collection and review of relevant material. The purpose of this research is to construct an epistemic advance in surf tourism as an academic field of study. Surf tourism research literature is an outgrowth of research literature related to the activity of surfing and framed in the discipline of tourism. As research into this field is little more than a decade old, this study traces its development from 1997 through 2010. This paper incorporated a variety of techniques to locate and compile a comprehensive inventory of material for methodical review; and each piece of research was content-analyzed to identify and categorize the nature and types of research emerging in the field, including gray and published literature. The benefits of a statistical analysis include that the information related to research contribution, while satisfying the natural curiosity of those in the discipline, may also be useful to future research, prospective graduate students, and faculty [1]. General knowledge of research productivity can help academic institutions evaluate and set standards for scholarly output [1]. As a contribution to this emergent field, this study outlines the development of surf tourism research literature and presents a seminal body of work in the English language. In all, 118 pieces of research, both published and gray literature, were located for systematic review and a complete bibliography is provided.

## 2. Methods

A systematic review encompasses a comprehensive search for relevant studies on a specific topic, and those identified are then appraised and synthesized according to a pre-determined explicit method [2]. The key to systematic review is that the criteria for the inclusion or exclusion of studies in the review is explicit from the outset, and while others

may not agree with the inclusions, the criteria for such inclusions, and thus the scope of the review, are clearly delimited [3]. In contrast to single studies taken in isolation, the systematic and statistical summary of a determined body of research results in a “research synthesis” or “evidence synthesis”, a methodology which is progressive [4]. Evidence-based syntheses are not new and the systematic literature review is increasingly employed as a scientific tool [4].

The collection of the literature spanned a period of four years (2007-2010) and encompassed three broad approaches: (1) extensive and ongoing internet search using a variety of advanced search techniques on *Google* and *Google Scholar* and a wide-range of academic databases, including *Science Direct*, *Emerald*, *JSTOR* and *EBSCOhost*; (2) following the references provided from related books, journal articles, research papers, and master theses and doctoral dissertations; and (3) identifying and contacting scholars in the topic area, whereby personal communication and collaboration greatly assisted in the location of related materials. All papers were systematically searched for key words, including ‘surf’ and ‘tourism’ and reviewed through reading and interpretation of content as it pertains to surf tourism as a field of research. The literature was synthesized in order to look across its development and identify patterns. The research was engineered to follow the progression of the literature across time and to examine the interdisciplinary nature of the field as it pertains to tourism alongside the social and natural sciences.

### 2.1 Inclusion of studies

This research presents surf tourism research as a new field of study, framed in the touristic academe within an established criteria—including conference papers, master theses and doctoral dissertations, book sections or chapters, government reports, commissioned research by not-for-profit organizations and other relevant literary works. Inclusive are 118 select papers found to be integral to the subject area and to make a significant contribution to surf tourism research. The focal point of many

of these works is not necessarily surf tourism per se; however, given the infancy of the field, papers with discussion of the subject matter were included. Of this body of research, 79 papers can be said to be clearly dedicated as surf tourism research. Overall, any research which discusses the visitation of surf sites for leisure and tourism in the context of, for example, surfing space (as a psychological construct), surfing events, coastal and environmental management of surf break sites, valuation studies of surfing areas, as well as the socioeconomics, ecotourism, sustainability, and conservation of surfing locations has been included. Of special consideration is the somewhat technical artificial surfing reef (ASR) literature, of which only those studies with discussion on surf tourism were included. The literature has developed across time and there may be several versions of related research by the same author. To ensure inclusiveness, such layers of research have been presented as individual studies.

## 2.2 Exclusion of studies

Excluded from this study were the following: the numerous books and travel guides on surfing; surf tourism research literature in French, Spanish, and Portuguese (approximately ten studies identified thus far); materials found in surf magazines, web media, and newspapers; the wide body of social science works related to surfing (the ‘surfing literature’); technical-based artificial surfing reef literature (the ‘ASR’ literature); and the wide body of scientific works related to surfing (the ‘surf science literature’). However, the topic of surf break management as a physical science, particularly those works by Scarfe (2008), Scarfe, Healy & Rennie (2009), and

Scarfe, Healy, Rennie & Mead (2009), have been included. Surf event economic impact studies, particularly those prepared for corporations, contest sponsors, or surfing organizations were not included in the study due to lack of access and availability in the public domain, and because they are not generally considered peer reviewed research.

## 3. Results

Findings include the following: identification of the quantity and types of research under development in surf tourism; the outgrowth of journal articles; institutional contributors; degree conferrals; repeat and prolific authorship; the unique body of commissioned research; a survey of field research locations across the globe; and the identification of surf event research as a particular feature in the nature of the body of research.

### 3.1 The Development of a New Body of Research Literature

We were able to identify 118 pieces of research for the period evaluated (1997-2010). Almost one-third of these were journal publications, and the rest were book sections or chapters, conference papers, academic projects (mainly Ph.D. dissertations and Master theses) and non-refereed papers prepared for or by local authorities, corporations and not-for-profit organizations. It took the first ten years of the period examined to produce as many research papers as during the last four years, signaling a significant acceleration in the publications frequency. Table 1 identifies the development of the research over time, differentiating the types of literature.

Table 1. Surf Tourism Research Statistics by Type of Publication, 1997-2010

Year	Journals	Book Sections	Conference Papers	Graduate Studies*	Non-refereed Studies**	Total
1997	0	0	0	1	0	1
1998	1	0	0	0	0	1
1999	3	2	1	2	0	8

2000	0	0	0	1	0	1
2001	2	1	0	2	0	5
2002	3	0	2	0	2	7
2003	3	0	4	0	1	8
2004	2	1	2	2	1	8
2005	3	0	1	2	0	6
2006	0	1	4	3	0	8
2007	6	3	4	2	4	19
2008	3	0	2	3	6	14
2009	9	4	4	2	3	22
2010	1	0	4	1	4	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>36 (22)***</b>	<b>12 (7)</b>	<b>28 (28)</b>	<b>21 (14)</b>	<b>21 (8)</b>	<b>118 (79)</b>

\* Includes Master theses, Ph.D. dissertations and graduate and undergraduate academic projects

\*\* Papers prepared for or by local authorities, corporations and not-for-profit organizations.

\*\*\* Numbers in parentheses show the number of papers by publication dedicated to surf tourism.

### 3.2 Appearance in Academic Journals

Academic journals began to recognize and publish surf tourism related studies as early as 1998 and the number has grown to encompass thirty six journal articles to date (see Table 2). Of the twenty six journals with surf tourist-related publications, *Journal of Coastal Research* has been the most prolific, with five publications, followed by *Journal of Sport and Tourism* and *Reef Journal*, with three each, and by *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, *Shore and Beach* and *Tourism Management*, with two publications

each. A number of disciplines are represented, including coastal research, ecotourism, sustainable tourism, geography, tourism management, and others in the social sciences.

More than half of the journal articles have been published in the previous 4 years (2007-2010) and represent an outgrowth of graduate research (to be discussed in section 3.4 of this study). As journal articles represent the development of research areas and are a significant factor in defining disciplines of study, surf tourism is an emergent field of research (see Table 2) in the academic world.

Table 2. Research Articles by Journal

<b>Journal</b>	<b>All articles</b>	<b>Dedicated articles</b>
Journal of Coastal Research	5	3
Journal of Sport & Tourism	3	3
Reef Journal	3	0
Journal of Sustainable Tourism	2	2
Shore & Beach	2	2
Tourism Management	2	1
Africa Insight	1	1
European Sport Management Quarterly	1	1
Geografiska Annaler	1	1
Journal of Travel Research	1	1
Managing Service Quality	1	1
Society & Leisure	1	1
South African Journal for Research in Sport	1	1
The Geographical Review	1	1

Tourism Analysis	1	1
Tourism in Marine Environments	1	1
Tourism Review Intl	1	1
Annals of Tourism Research	1	0
Event Management	1	0
Film & History	1	0
Geography Compass	1	0
Journal of Ecotourism	1	0
Qualitative Market Research: An Intl Journal	1	0
Revista de Turismo y Patrimonio Cultural	1	0
Tourism Geographies	1	0
<b>Total journal articles</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>

\* Previously (until 2006) known as *Journal of Sport Tourism*.

### 3.3 Institutional Contributors to Journal Papers

A considerable amount of research is attributable to graduate studies and researchers affiliated with academic institutions. Segmentation by country indicates that Australia leads in journal articles attributed to universities, with just over a third of all articles (13), followed by the United States and South Africa (4 each), and the United Kingdom, and New Zealand (3 each). Griffith University, Australia, is by far the leader in surf tourism research (7), followed by the Australian National University and University of

Waikato, New Zealand (3 each). Although Hawaii is the undisputed origin of surf tourism, there have been no journal articles from universities in Hawaii (albeit there have been other research works); while Indonesia, one of the most prolifically researched surfing destination in the world, has not yet surf tourism research attributed to an Indonesian university. Table 3 outlines institutional contributors by country and sub group's universities and other institutions within each country by contribution and alphabetically. Data was compiled based on primary authorship.

Table 3. Institutional Contributors to Journal Articles

Country	Institutional Contributors	Pieces of Research	Year of First Publication
<b>Universities</b>			
Australia	Griffith University	7	2002
	Australian National University	3	2007
	Edith Cowan University	1	1999
	University of Technology, Sydney	1	2005
	University of Wollongong	1	2003
United States	San Diego State University	1	2009
	Stetson University	1	2009
	University of California, Berkeley	1	2009
	University of California, Los Angeles	1	2007
United Kingdom	Manchester Metropolitan University	1	2005
	Swansea Metropolitan University	1	2009
	University of Exeter	1	2005

South Africa	University of Natal	2	2001
	Cape Peninsula Univ. of Technology	1	2008
	University of KwaZulu-Natal	1	2008
New Zealand	University of Waikato	3	2004
Canada	University of Calgary	2	2001
France	Univ. Michel de Montaigne-Bordeaux III	1	1998
Netherlands	University of Leiden	1	2003
Portugal	Instituto Superior Tecnico	1	2009
Spain	Universidad de La Laguna	1	2010
<b>Other Organizations</b>			
New Zealand	ASR Marine Consulting and Research	1	2009
Australia	National Surfing Reserves	1	2007

For papers with authors from different institutions, only the first author affiliation has been accounted for. One author was not affiliated with any academic institution.

### 3.4 Degree Conferral in the Research Area

Research clearly dedicated to surf tourism and carried out in fulfillment of honors and master requirements encompasses 12 theses to date; while dedicated research at the doctoral level accounts for two dissertations. However, if considering all honors and graduate studies which significantly contribute to surf tourism there are currently 21 works (see Table 4). Degree conferral in the research area includes graduate reports, honors studies, and one Capstone project for Bachelor of Science. Australian researcher Jess Ponting (2000, 2001, 2008) was the first in history to graduate from research in surf tourism at both the Master and Ph.D. levels. Graduate studies

accentuate the interdisciplinary development of the field (i.e. surf tourism research in context with other fields of studies) with degrees conferred in planning, geography, management, leisure and tourism, anthropology, environmental studies, oceanography, political science, and other fields. Graduate studies contributed to the outgrowth leading to journal publications found herein. Encompassed in the 21 studies listed as contributors to the surf tourism field, management and sustainability are the key areas of research. Comprising the bulk of degree conferrals, eight studies are attributed to Australian universities and seven to United States universities.

Table 4. Degree Conferral in the Research Area  
(Honors work, Theses and Dissertations)

Year	Degree Conferred	University	Country
1997	Graduate Diploma in Urban & Regional Planning (planning report)*	Curtin Univ. of Tech.	AU
1999	Master of Arts in Geography (thesis)	San Diego State Univ.	USA
1999	Honors Degree in Social Sciences (Directed Research Project)	Univ. of Waikato	NZ
2000	Master of Mgt (Tourism Mgt) (graduate report)*	Univ. of Tech., Sydney	AU
2001	Master of Mgt (Tourism Mgt) (thesis)*	Univ. of Tech., Sydney	AU
2001	Bachelor of Science (Capstone Project)*	Calif. State Univ., Monterey	USA
2004	Master of Science in Travel Industry Mgt (thesis)*	Univ. of Hawaii	USA
2004	International Tourism Mgt & Consultancy (thesis)*	NHTV Univ. of Prof. Educ.	NL
2005	Doctor of Philosophy (dissertation)	Murdoch Univ., Perth	AU
2005	Doctor of Philosophy (dissertation)	Univ. of Wollongong	AU
2006	Master of Science in Leisure, Tourism & Environment (thesis)*	Wageningen Univ.	NL

2006	Ph.D. in Anthropology (dissertation)	Australian National Univ.	AU
2006	Master's Degree of Technology: Marketing	Durban Univ. of Tech.	SA
2007	Master of Arts in Anthropology (thesis)*	San Diego State Univ.	USA
2007	Master of Arts in Ecology & Sustainable Development (thesis)*	Murdoch Univ., Perth	AU
2008	Master of Science in Oceanography/Coastal Zone Mgt (thesis)*	Florida Institute of Tech.	USA
2008	Ph.D. in Leisure and Tourism (dissertation)*	Univ. of Tech., Sydney	AU
2008	Ph.D. in Earth and Ocean Sciences (dissertation)	Univ. of Waikato	NZ
2009	Ph.D. in Political Sciences (dissertation)*	Univ. of Hawaii	USA
2009	Master in Natural Resources & Sustainable Development (substantial research paper)*	American Univ. Wash. DC	USA
2010	MBA in Hospitality & Tourism Mgt (thesis)*	Prince of Songkla Univ.	Thailand

\*Research dedicated to surf tourism

### 3.5 Shortlist of Repeat Authorship

Publications associated with the pursuit of an academic degree are evident in the works of Lazarow, Ponting, and Scarfe. Table 5 identifies four Australian authors, Buckley, Lazarow, Ponting and O'Brien, which account for 31 of the total examined studies, constituting over 25 percent of the extant surf tourism literature to date. Similarly, they account for 11 journal articles, constituting 33 percent of the total articles to date.

As of August 5, 2011, Buckley is the most cited scholar in the field based on data retrieved from *Google Scholar*. The high citation numbers for Getz and Preston-Whyte maybe somewhat misleading as these works also include topics other than surf tourism.

Ponting and Lazarow have the highest number of pieces of research, followed by Buckley. Given the originality of the surf

tourism field of research and the limited studies to date, Buckley, Lazarow, Ponting, and O'Brien are clearly driving the field of study and their works are instrumental in defining the research area. Personal communications (Buckley, 2010; Lazarow, 2010; Ponting, 2010; O'Brien, 2010) identifies that these researchers are surfers and consequently, surfers are guiding the field. Table 5 is far short of an exhaustive account; rather it offers a general sample of the prolific researchers, specifically those who served as a common link across multiple studies. The table excludes some authors, such as Martin (6 publications) and Fluker (5 publications), who, despite presenting at conference proceedings and publishing research, do not have primary authorship of journal articles.

Table 5. Shortlist of Repeat Authorship

Authors	Journal papers (primary authorship)		Other research**	Total pieces of research
	Total papers	Citations (Google Scholar)*		
Buckley	4	79	3	7
Lazarow	4	27	6	10
Ponting	2	10	8	10
Getz	2	67	1	3
Scarfe	2	3	1	3
Poizat-Newcomb	2***	5	0	2
Preston-Whyte	2	44	0	2
Dolnicar	1	16	2	3
O'Brien	1	15	3	4
Nelsen	1	10	2	3

\* As of 5 August 2011

- \*\* Includes secondary journal authorship (Getz only), graduate work, book sections, conference papers and non-refereed papers
- \*\*\* Constitutes a single article published in two parts

### 3.6 Commissioned Research

Research produced as a result of commissioned studies forms a significant component to the field, wherein 17 out of 21 total pieces of research were produced in the recent 4 years. These works are mainly reports and studies generated by or for the nonprofit sector and government agencies. Five reports for non-profit organizations (NPO) are dedicated explicitly to surf tourism and the conservation of surfing resources, while three government reports are dedicated to surf tourism management and impacts. *Save The*

*Waves* (STW) and *Surfers Against Sewage* (SAS) are the most active NPOs with three and two reports respectively. Inclusive, government studies tend to be focused on tourism development, impact studies and management, while nonprofit studies are aimed at the economic impacts of tourism and sustainability issues. Of the 12 government-sponsored reports, seven are Australian, including three on the Gold Coast, the most researched location in this category. The other two most researched countries are the UK and the USA, each with four commissioned works.

Table 6. Commissioned Research

Year	Commissioning organization	Type of research	Researched area
<i>Non-Profit Organizations</i>			
2002	Environmental defense, Surfer's Environmental Alliance, The Surfrider Foundation	Value of coastal tourism	Rincon, Puerto Rico
2007	Save The Waves Coalition	Economic impact of surfing	Mundaka, Spain, & Costa Rica
2008	Corepoint and local authorities	Physical, ecological and socio-economic impact study	Cornwall, UK
2008	Waikiki Improvement Association	Economic impact analysis	Waikiki Beach, Hawaii, USA
2008	Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative	Recreation carrying capacity and mgt	Kailua Beach Park, Hawaii, USA
2008	Save The Waves Coalition	Economic impact study	Mundaka, Spain
2009	Surfers Against Sewage	Environmental impact assessment	UK beaches
2010	Surfers Against Sewage	Resource report	Global, UK beaches
2010	Save The Waves Coalition	Surfing and sustainable tourism	global
<i>Government and corporate reports</i>			
2002	Opunake Artificial Surf Reef Committee & South Taranaki District Council	Economic and social impact of artificial surfing reefs	Opunake, South Taranaki, NZ
2003	Cornwall County Council	Historic report	Newquay, Cornwall, UK
2004	Back Beach Improvement Group	Socio economic impact study	Back Beach, Australia
2007	Ontario Ministry of Tourism et al.	Profile report	USA and Canada
2007	Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc.	Recreational carrying capacity	Honolua Bay, Hawaii, USA
2007	Gold Coast City Council	Surf quality and coastal mgt	Kirra, Gold Coast, Australia
2008	Gold Coast City Council	Best practice research report	Gold Coast, Australia
2008	Brevard County, FL	Feasibility study of artificial surfing reefs	Florida, USA
2009	Gold Coast City Council	Surf industry review and economic contributions	Gold Coast, Australia

		assessment	
2009	Tourism New South Wales	Surf tourism action plan	New South Wales, Australia
2010	Surf Coast Shire	Surfing reserve coastal mgt plan	Bells Beach, Australia
2010	Central Coast Tourism	Destination mgt plan	Central Coast, Australia

### 3.7 Field Research Locations

Surf tourism field research locations cover most continents. In some cases, a single research was conducted in more than one location, or offers discussion on more than one location. Table 7 provides a detailed account of field research sites whereby the category “global” identifies research findings with discussion in a global context. In the case of countries with research carried out in various regions, such as Eastern or Western Australia, various islands in Indonesia, and states or territories of the United States, the data have been segmented for purposes of clarification. The most popular research destinations are

Australia, the US and Indonesia, where the former two benefit from the presence of universities with scholars interested in the topic. In contrast, Indonesia is the third most researched area in the world, yet not a single English language research is attributed to an Indonesian university. The Mentawai Archipelago is the most researched surfing realm in the world (taking into account that data presented here for Australia actually encompasses the southern and eastern seaboard from Bells Beach to the Great Barrier Reef; as well as the Indian Ocean coast of Western Australia).

Table 7. Surf Tourism Field Research Locations

Country/region	Location	Sub-total	Total
<b>Global/General</b>			<b>21</b>
<b>Australia</b>	general	11	<b>34</b>
	East and South	17	
	West	6	
<b>New Zealand</b>			<b>7</b>
<b>United States</b>	general	3	<b>23</b>
	California	9	
	Hawaii	5	
	Florida	3	
	Puerto Rico	3	
<b>Indonesia</b>	general	2	<b>19</b>
	Mentawai	13	
	Bali	2	
	Lombok	2	
<b>Europe</b>	United Kingdom	9	<b>16</b>
	Spain	4	
	France	1	
	Ireland	1	
	Portugal	1	
<b>Oceania</b>	general	4	<b>10</b>
	Fiji	2	
	Samoa	1	
	Papua New Guinea	1	
<b>Africa</b>	South Africa	5	<b>6</b>
	Morocco	1	
<b>Central America</b>	Costa Rica	4	<b>5</b>
	Mexico	1	
<b>Others</b>	Thailand	5	<b>12</b>
	Maldives	1	

### 3.8 Surf Tourism Event Research

Surfing events are a reoccurring theme in the research, mentioned in nearly 45 percent of the papers reviewed. Table 8 identifies surfing events as a highly significant topic in the literature. As aforementioned, economic impact analyses on surf events prepared for corporate sponsors were not included in the review. Although ten of the 118 papers were dedicated to surf events, there were an additional 42 papers (over one third of the total research reviewed) which included some discussion on surfing events. Many of these papers can be more broadly defined as papers on the socioeconomic impact of surfing, which underscores the economic importance of surfing events and form a significant component to surf tourism literature.

Table 8. Surfing Event Research

Focal Point of the research	Pieces of research
Dedicated surf event research	10
Includes discussion on surfing events	42

## 4. Discussion

Surf tourism research literature is a new and rapidly expanding area in the touristic academe. The literature reviewed herein reflects the interdisciplinary nature of surf tourism in context not only within tourism as a professional field, but within sociology, economics, and coastal studies in terms of ecology, environmental and coastal management, and the concern for the custodianship and conservation of surfing areas. From academic and developmental perspectives, as the research increased, it expanded in scope and crossed disciplines. This is identifiable at the graduate research level by the diversity of disciplines represented in an array of unpublished theses and dissertations, in book sections and chapters, and in academic journals. Surf tourism research appears across a wide spectrum of touristic fields, including sport tourism, adventure tourism, marine tourism, water-based tourism, sustainable tourism, coastal

tourism, tourism marketing, tourism management, recreational management, travel industry management, coastal zone management, event management, and tourism planning. Social science disciplines include human geography, anthropology, economics, sociology, psychology, and political science. Natural science disciplines include ecology and oceanography.

For the most part, early research in surf tourism began with attention to artificial surfing reefs, surfing events, recreational capacity, marine tourism, and tourism marketing data. Surf tourism as a research area emerges through field studies in France, Puerto Rico, and Indo-Pacific Islands, especially the Mentawai Archipelago. At the turn of the twenty-first century, honors and graduate studies contributed greatly to the overall field, while journal articles brought the 'international tourism' discussion. The domestic tourism argument followed, especially with valuation studies of surf sites and various government examinations and assessments. Emergent trends in the literature include the call for social and physical management set in the context of sustainability and conservation, recognizing the economic benefits of surfing breaks, and the need for considering the protection of surfing areas in the coastal management decision process. Among the research community there is an evident call to sustain and manage surfing resources around the world.

Overall, more than fifty percent of the total research has been produced in the previous five years and Australian graduate students and related universities are in lead of the field. Furthermore, a surge in commissioned research in the recent five years, especially among governmental bodies and the not-for-profit sector, highlights the development of the field of study. Globally, this new subfield of research has arisen, not by well-known theoreticians writing about it, but by graduate students and consultants first—and academics later—and this is evident in the gray literature and degree conferrals in the field.

## 5. Conclusion

This study serves as the first-ever formative body of surf tourism research literature compiled for future inquiry. However, given the limitations of locating the gray literature, and despite the best efforts of the authors, it is possible that the list is less than exhaustive.

Based on this research, recommendations include trend and content analyses of the studies found herein in order to identify emergent themes, theories, methods, and contributions to the field of study. For example, as fifty-two pieces of research included some level of discussion on surfing events, this topic is a cornerstone to the field and deserves further investigation. Foreign-language works are in need of review, including those in French, Spanish, and Portuguese. Given that the majority of the existing English-language research is on prolific surf tourism areas in Australia, Indonesia, and the United States, this suggests an opportunity to conduct research in new or less-publicized surf tourism destinations, such as much of coastal and insular Africa, South America, India, and Southeast Asia outside of Indonesia and Thailand.

With the growth of the international and interdisciplinary field of tourism, and given the increased petition for empirical research by graduate students and faculty, surf tourism research offers a new and dynamic area and element of inquiry. A key observation of this research is the genesis in little over a decade of a body of literature set in the context of globalization in terms of exploration, activity, and diversity amidst natural and political borders and backgrounds of authorship and disciplines.

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## APPENDIX

### Surf Tourism Research Included in the Systematic Review

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