

wildlife watching tours on sea otters in Monterey Bay, California. There is evidence that some tourism activities, particularly kayaking, can disturb sea otters, leading to changes in important natural behaviour. In the long term this could lead to chronic stress and have impacts on their health and welfare. This can be avoided by following National Marine Sanctuary sea otter-watching guidelines based on recommendations from this research. Educational campaigns and efforts by kayak outfitters are also aimed at taking a proactive approach to limiting disturbance.

Related internet sources

Friends of the Sea Otter: <http://www.seaotters.org>

Monterey Bay Aquarium Sea Otter Research and Conservation Program: <http://www.mbayaq.org/cr/sorac.asp>

Ashley Dayer

Sea Scooter A sea scooter is a personal, motorized watercraft and diver propulsion vehicle. It is a battery-powered device with a small propeller. There are two types: one that the diver holds on to, another that the diver sits on. A sea scooter runs at speeds of up to 3 km/h and to depths of up to 20 m. Sea scooters are used to make swimming easier: they allow divers to spend their energies in a different way, as well as adding fun. The most recognized sea scooter is the Sea-Doo.

Related internet sources

Sea-Doo: <http://www.seascooter.net>

Scuba-Doo: <http://www.scubadoo.com.au>

Dagmar Fertl

Sea Trekking Sea trekking began in 1998 with the introduction of a lightweight, shallow water helmet **diving** system. Sea trekking activities are offered primarily at **coastal resorts** around the world. Over 500,000 individuals, some as young as 8 years old, have participated in sea trekking.

Sea treks require only basic swimming skills and are usually conducted in groups of eight by a trained guide and a safety diver. Guided sea treks last about 1 h which includes 35 min of training and about 30 min of undersea exploration. Walks on the ocean floor can

descend to a maximum of 9 m. This 'soft adventure' may be described as similar to a space walk.

Sea trek participants wear a lightweight helmet connected by an air supply hose to a floating manifold that distributes air from electrically driven compressors from a shore station.

Humans have continually sought ways to explore the oceans. In 1535, Guglielmo de Larena invented the first diving bell, which has led to countless attempts to develop new technologies over the past five centuries. The development of the aqualung by August Picard and Jacques **Cousteau** in 1953 created a mass market for undersea **recreation** through the use of the Self-contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA). Sea trekking represents the latest evolution in undersea **tourism** and recreational pursuits.

See also: Scuba-diving, Snuba.

Charles Hammersley

Sea Turtle Seven species of sea turtle occur in tropical and subtropical waters, although some species also occur in temperate zones. All are endangered or threatened and have been significantly affected by marine pollution, habitat loss, fish netting and unsustainable harvesting for food and for tourist souvenirs, such as mounted specimens and tortoiseshell products.

Although turtles spend most of their lives under water, nesting females come ashore to lay their eggs above the high-water mark. Such nesting events have become a **marine wildlife tourism** spectacle at certain **beaches** in South-east Asia, Australia, the Americas and in some parts of the **Mediterranean**. However, unregulated access to turtles by tourists can **impact** negatively. Touching, even riding on the carapaces of nesting turtles, noise, uncontrolled use of torches and camera flashlights and general disturbance created by unmanaged tourist groups can interfere with nesting success. Recognizing these threats, nature **conservation** agencies and responsible wildlife tourism operators now seek to manage turtle tourism by restricting direct access to nesting turtles, use of guides to