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Reflection

Observations conducted provided interesting data that no other source of literature could provide. The numbers recorded provide more information to bite into rather than “Yes, there is crowding at the Grotto.” Though the numbers were shocking, Tenorio believes that it is somewhat inaccurate. Due to that facts that weather and popular months were not able to be measure. Certain time of the year change circumstances for the Grotto, such as typhoon season where rough weather conditions are less favorable for swimming. Furthermore, certain months within the year tourist visitors are more frequent, such as summer.

Aside from the previous statements, a lack of male participants was apparent in the survey to Northern Marianas College students. It could be possible that male participants are more likely to visit the Grotto more frequently. Many responses stated that they rarely visit the Grotto, less than 5 times a year, though these surveyors seemed to be more compassionate towards the negative impacts towards the environment.

A lack in literature was apparent within the research paper, 5 experts would have provided a lengthy amount of information to delve into, but only 2 responses were recorded. Also there was a lack in literature, a case study in Palau was available and was somewhat researched, but the document became inaccessible due to unknown reasons.

In conclusion over this research report it appears that both the public and experts in the topic agree that the Grotto is in fact being impacted negatively by tourist activity. The students however seemed less educated in the matter than what was initially anticipated. Experts in the topic provided insight on the topic further added to the idea of negative impacts. Voicing that tourist numbers have been gradually increasing over time. Experts also implied that certain restrictions such as reducing the number of tourist on the “rock” and charging tourism companies, though these ideas should benefit the island, more actions are necessary to sustainable manage the popular tourist destination.

Observations provided major insight to the daily visitors that the Grotto faces. Averaging at 350 tourist visitors in a two-hour time frame. Due to time constraints identifying tourism impacts at the Grotto can not be stated accurately.A lack of literature also makes is difficult to determine what restrictions should be implemented and how effective those regulations will be.