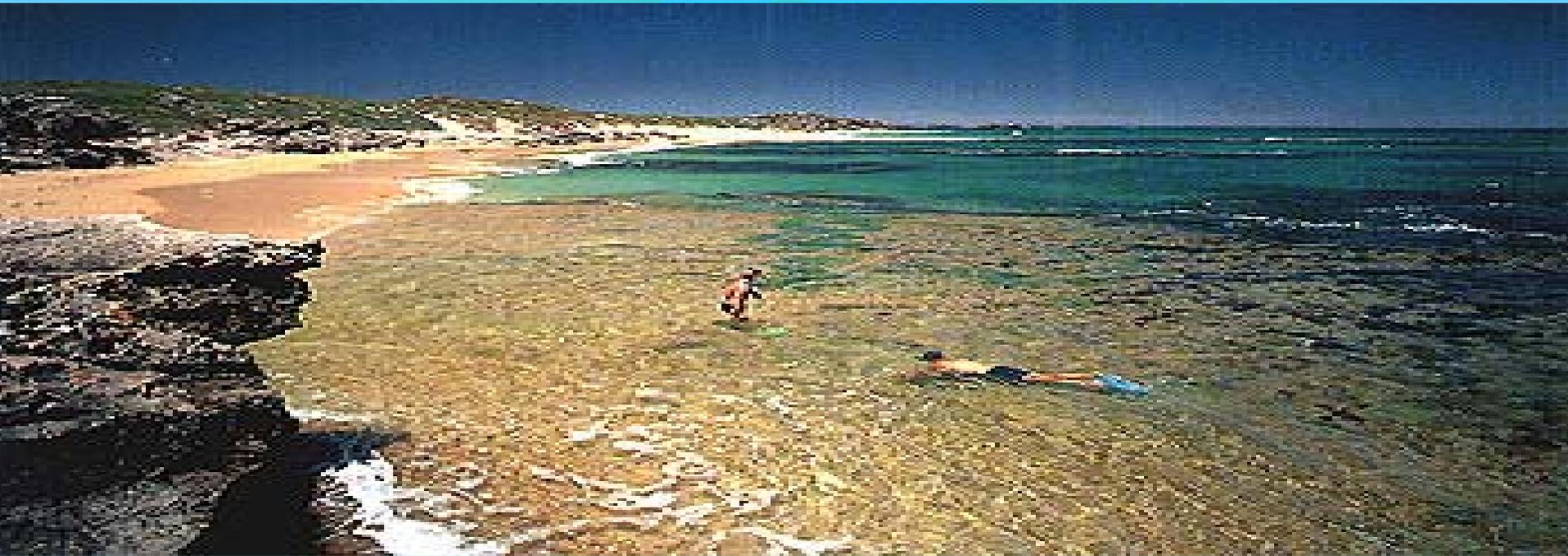


Visitor usage trends in Shoalwater Islands Marine Park 1994 - 2003



Presented by: Sonya Brunt Supervisor: Dr Sue Moore
Assistance from: Kylie Ryan - A/Marine Conservation Officer CALM
School of Environmental Science - Murdoch University and
CALM Recreation and Tourism Research Reference Group



Overview of presentation

Research Objectives

Study Site

Methodology

Results

Discussion

Conclusion and

Recommendations



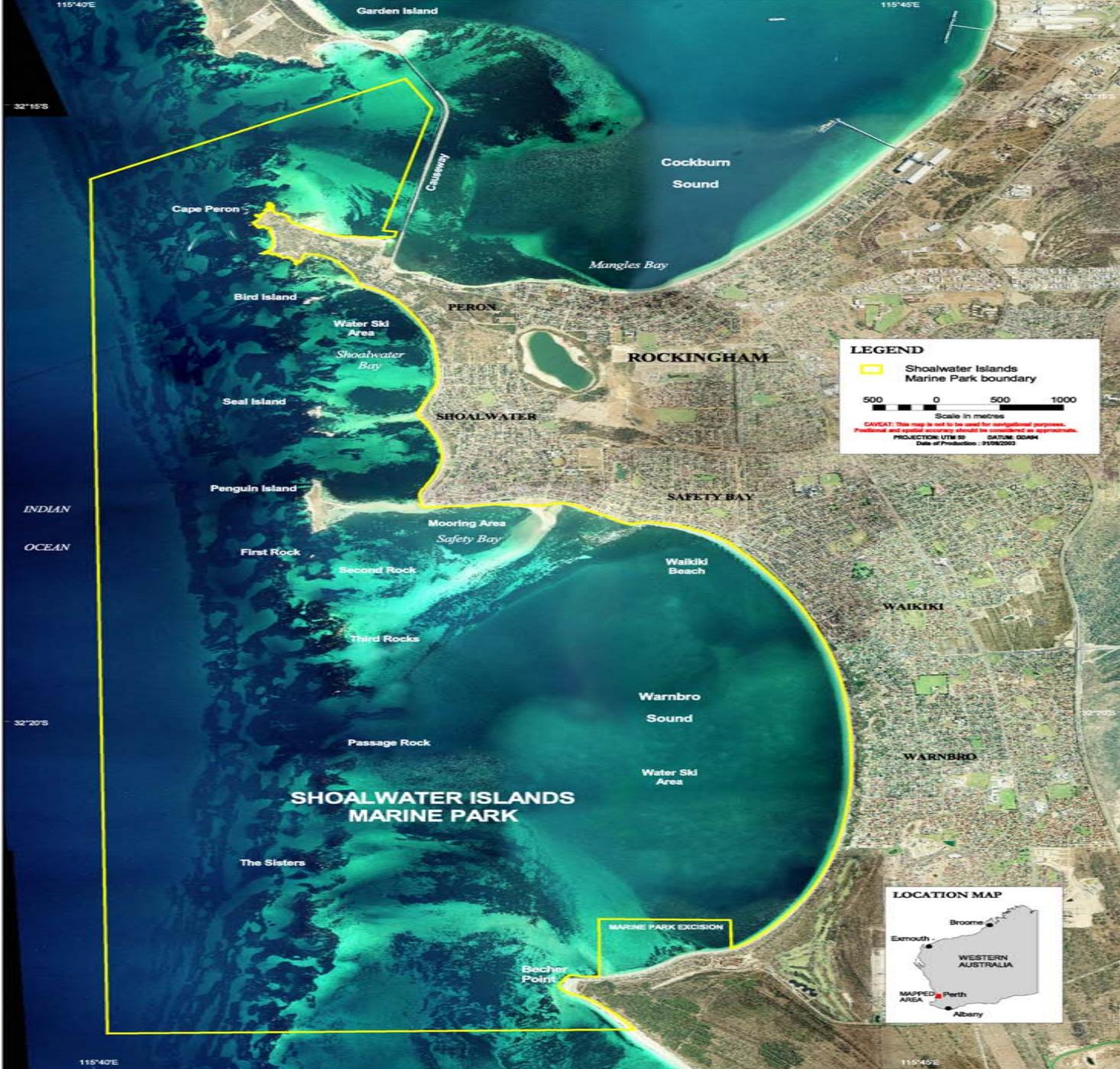
Research Question

What are the trends in visitor numbers, locations and activities in Shoalwater Islands Marine Park (SIMP)?



Study Area

- SIMP is located approximately 50 km South of Perth in Western Australia
- 10 km of coastline from Garden Island causeway to Becher Point
- Between 1 and 6 km seaward
- Gazetted a Marine Park on May 25 1990
- Managed by Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM)
- Draft management plan released in 1995 – not yet finalized



INDIAN
OCEAN

32°20'S

115°40'E

115°45'E



Methods

1. Primary data

➤ Aerial survey

- undertaken on Saturday morning, Easter Weekend 2003
- One hour – 2 passengers and pilot
- Used GPS coordinates to distinguish sectors
- One person filmed using a video camera; second person counted activities
- Plotted results in Arcview



Methods

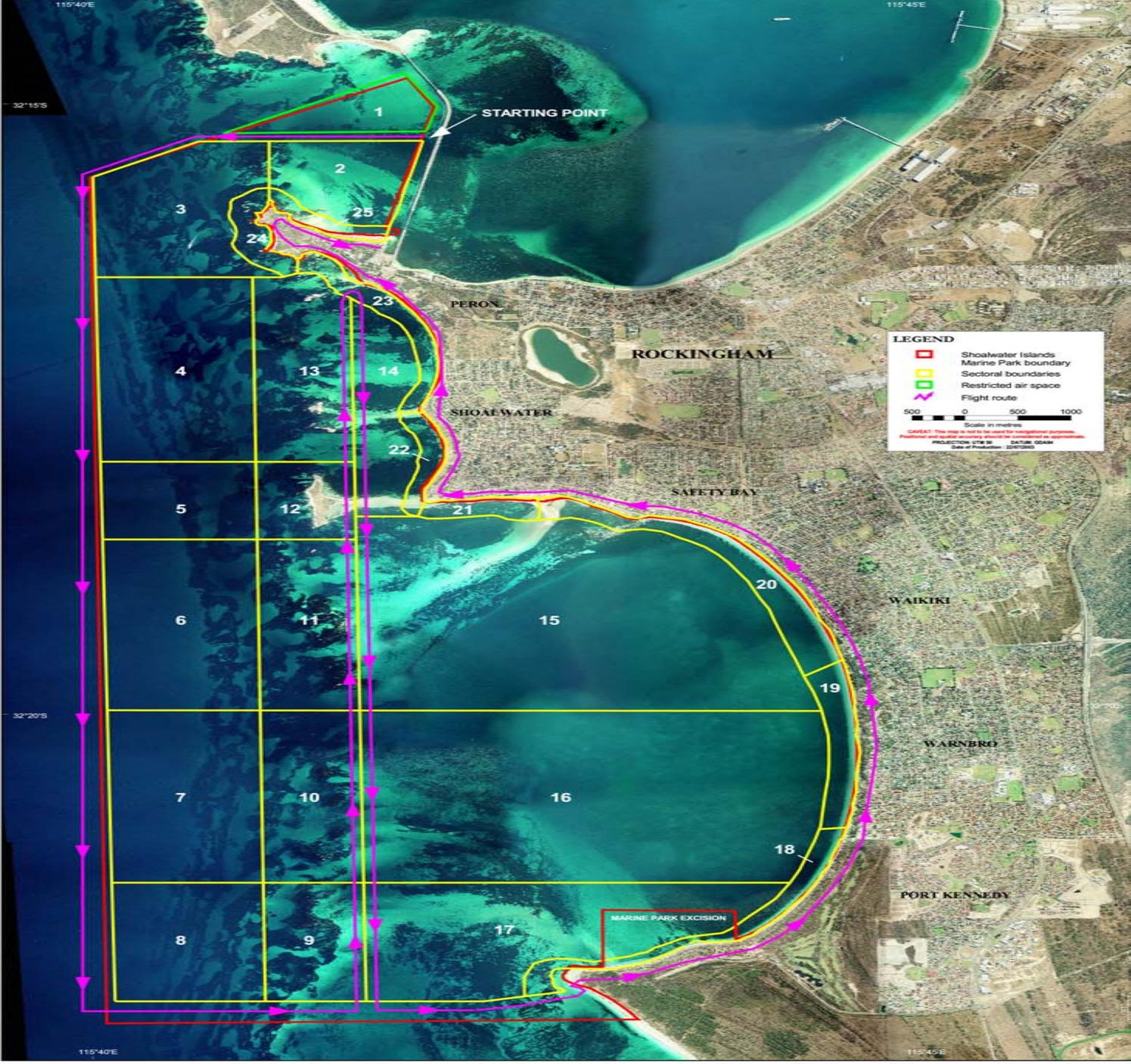
Activities divided into:

People-based activities

- people (on beach)
- swimmers
- fishermen (on beach)
- snorkelers
- scuba divers
- surfers
- (and body boarders)

Craft-based activities

- vessels (motorised)
- personal watercraft
(jet skis)
- sail craft (yachts)
- kayakers
- wind surfers /
kite surfers





Methods

2. Secondary data

- SIMP boat patrol data 1994 – 2002
 - analysed activities at 7 SIMP locations
- CALM VISTAT data
- CALM commercial tour operator data
- A City of Rockingham beach user survey 2001
- Penguin Experience Island Discovery Centre sales records 1995 – 2003
- Results of 4 Penguin Island visitor surveys
- City of Rockingham population statistics



Results

➤ Aerial Survey

103 people observed

people (on beach) 75%

swimmers 19%

snorkeling 3%

fishermen (on beach)
2%

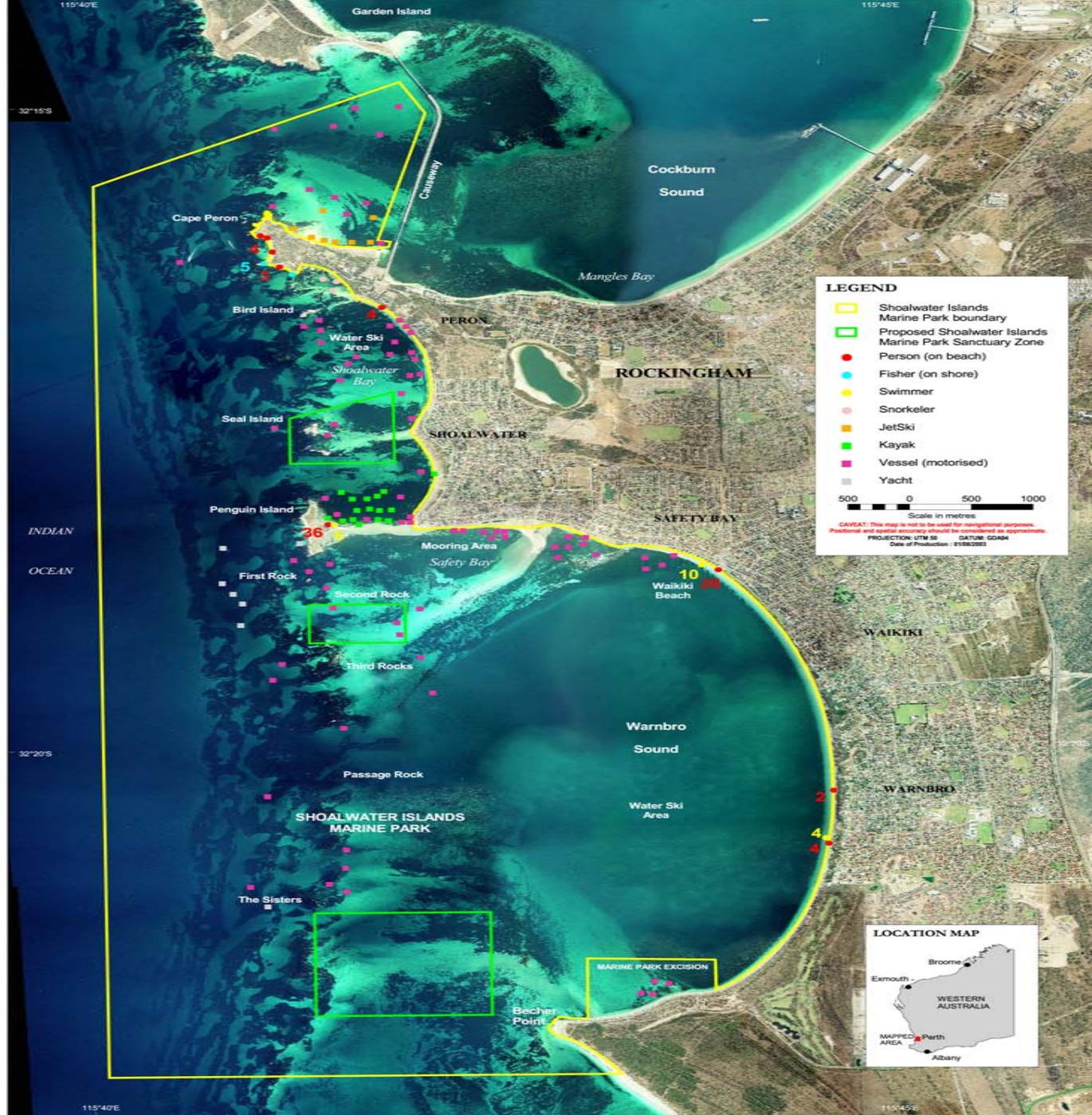
101 craft observed

vessels (motorised) 73%

kayaks 15%

yachts 6%

jet skis 5%



32°15'S

INDIAN OCEAN

32°20'S

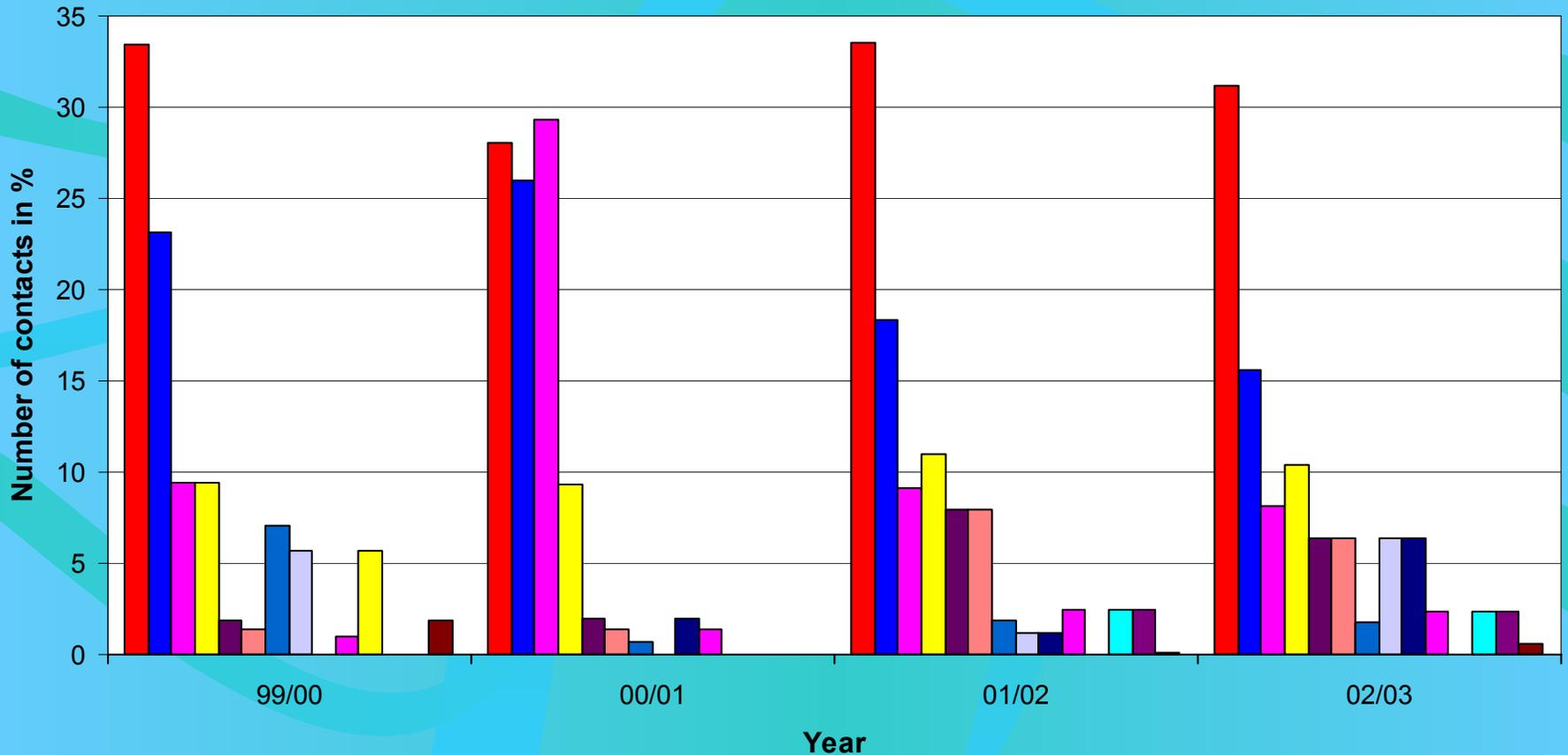
115°40'E

115°45'E

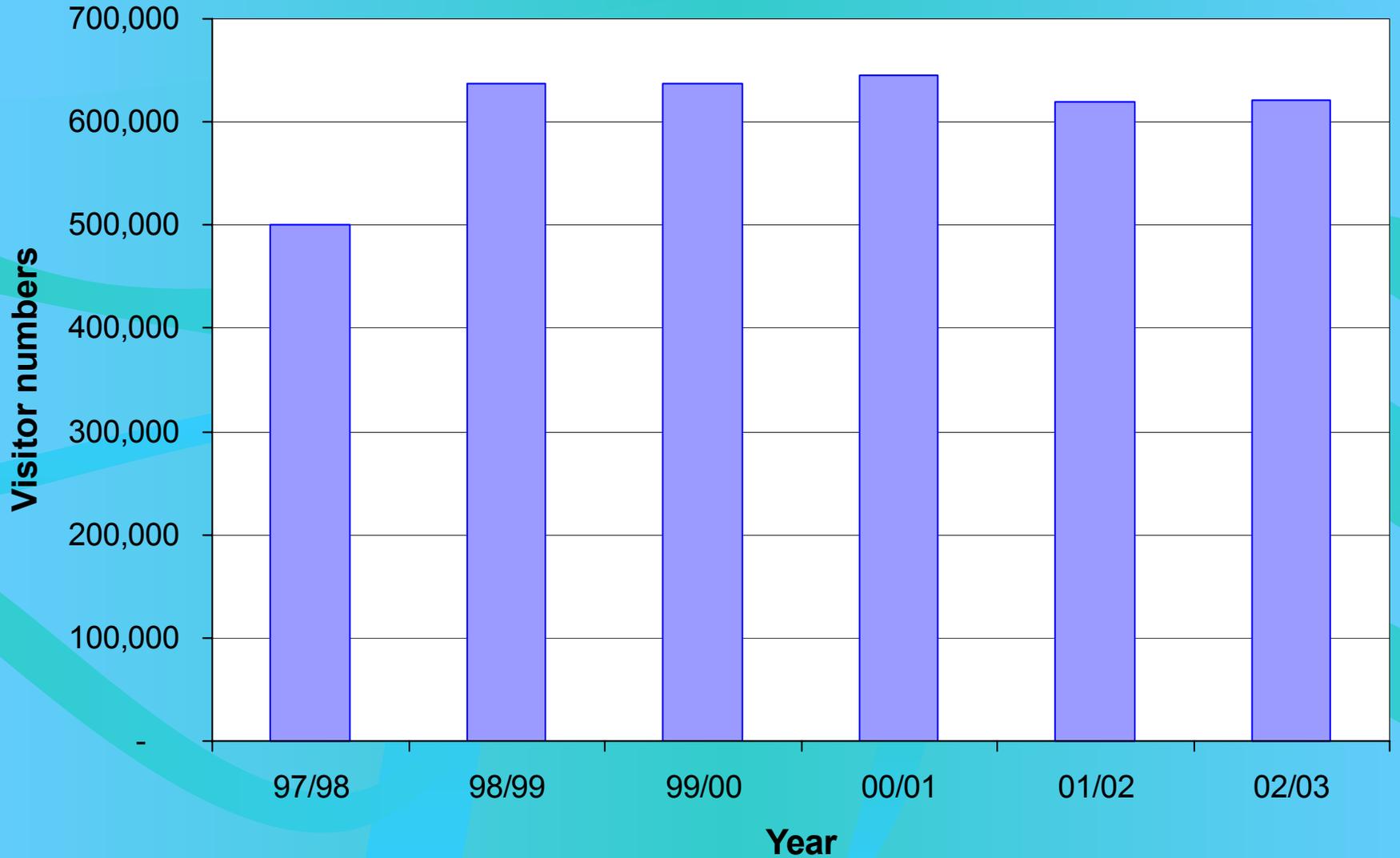
**Boat Patrol Data
1994 - 2002**

	Becher Point	Tern Island	Penguin Island	Sisters	Point Peron	Bird Island	Seal Island
People (on beach)	→	↓	↑	None	↑	None	↑
Swimmers	↓	→	↑	None	→	→	→
Snorkelers	↑	↓	↑	→	↑	→	↓
Scuba divers	None	→	↑	→	↓	→	→
Fishermen	↑	↑	↑	→	→	→	→
Spear fishers	→	→	→	→	→	→	None
Vessels	↓	→	↓	→	↑	→	↑
Wind surfers	None	→	→	None	None	None	→
Surfing	→	→	→	None	→	→	→
Kayakers	None	None	→	None	→	→	→
Jet skis	→	→	→	None	→	→	→

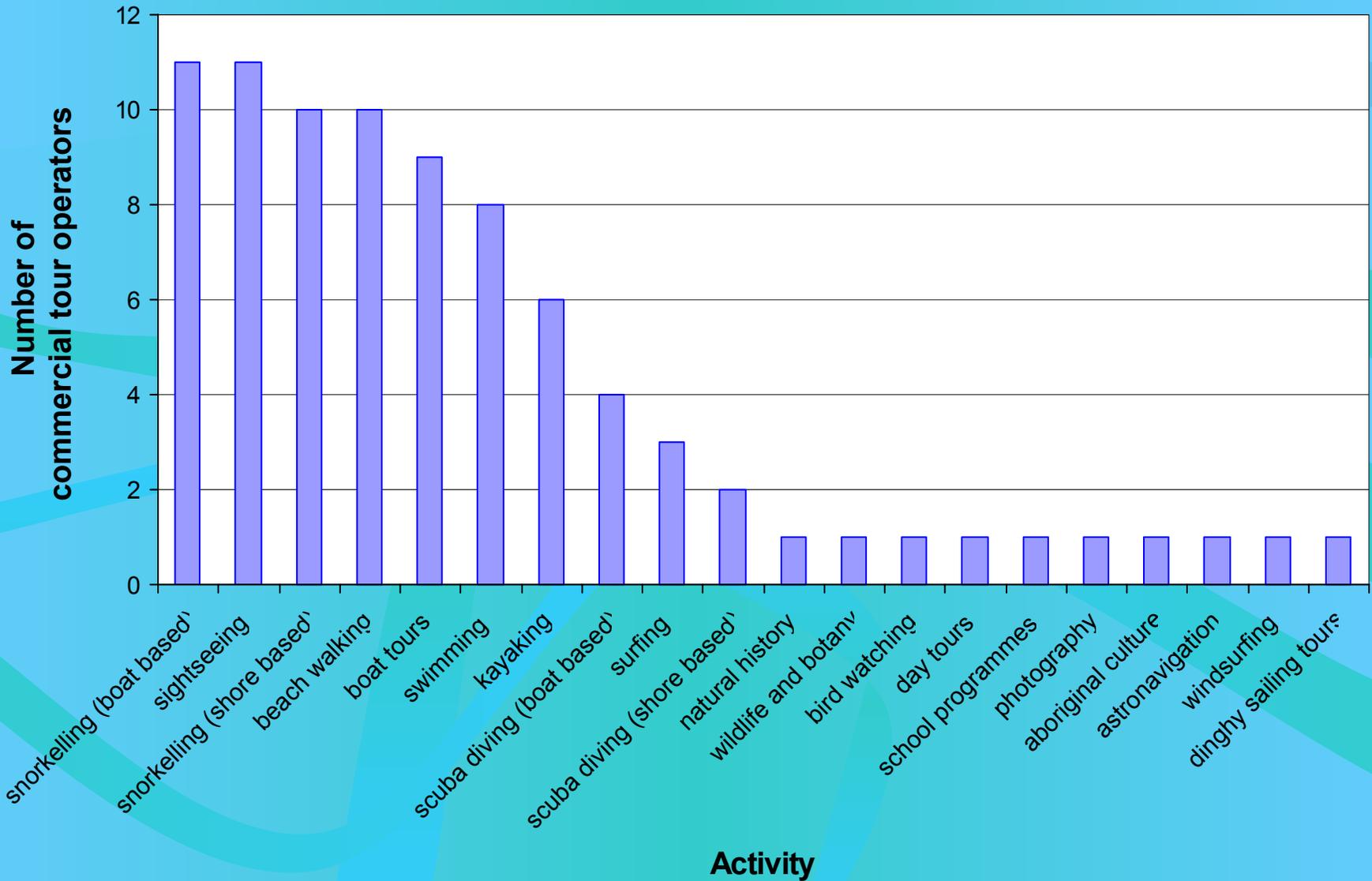
Issues used to educate visitors in SIMP 1999 - 2003



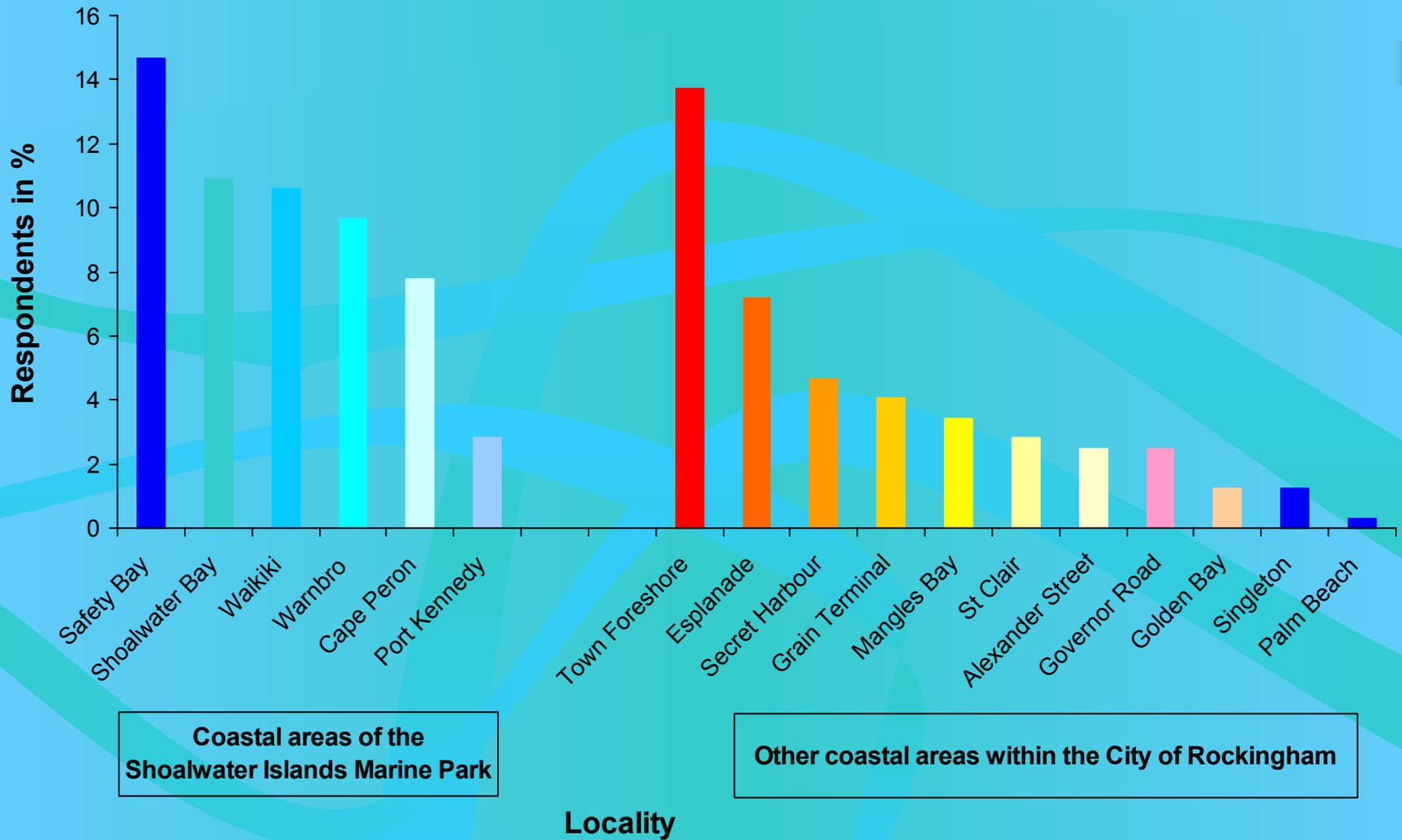
Total yearly visitors in SIMP from VISTAT data 1997 - 2003



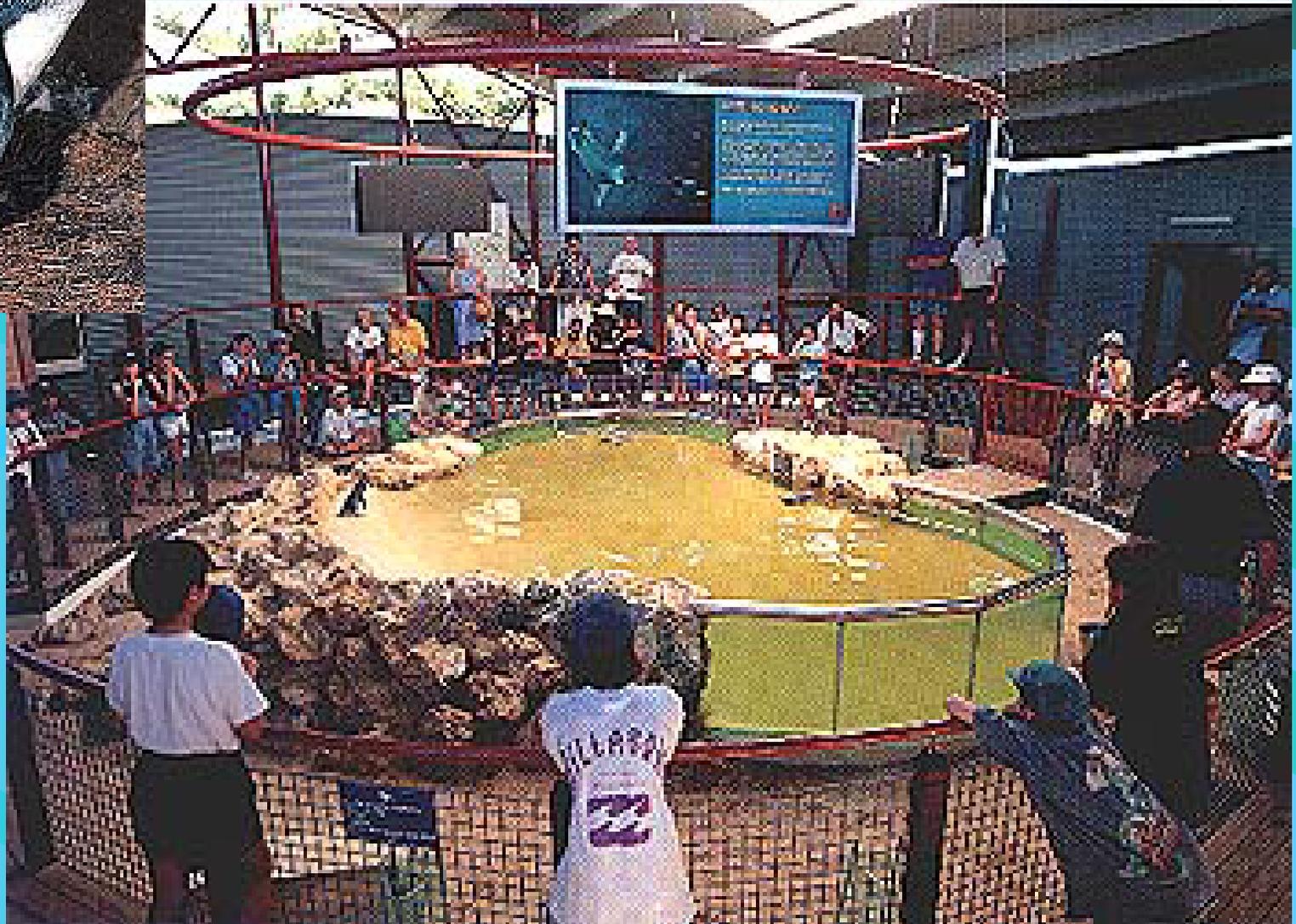
Commercial Tour Operators and activities in SIMP as at 2003



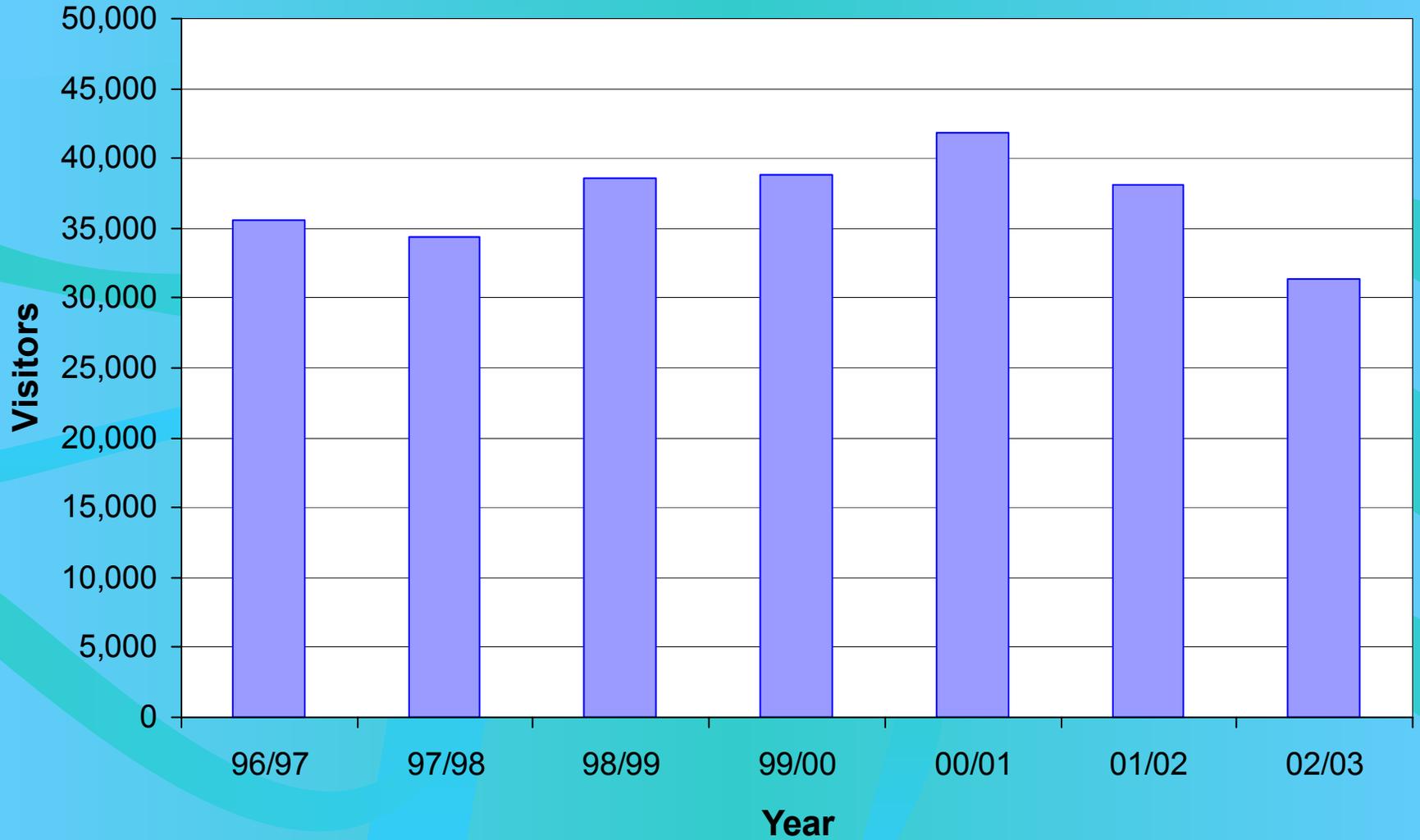
Beaches used by City of Rockingham citizens 2001



Penguin Experience Island Discovery Centre

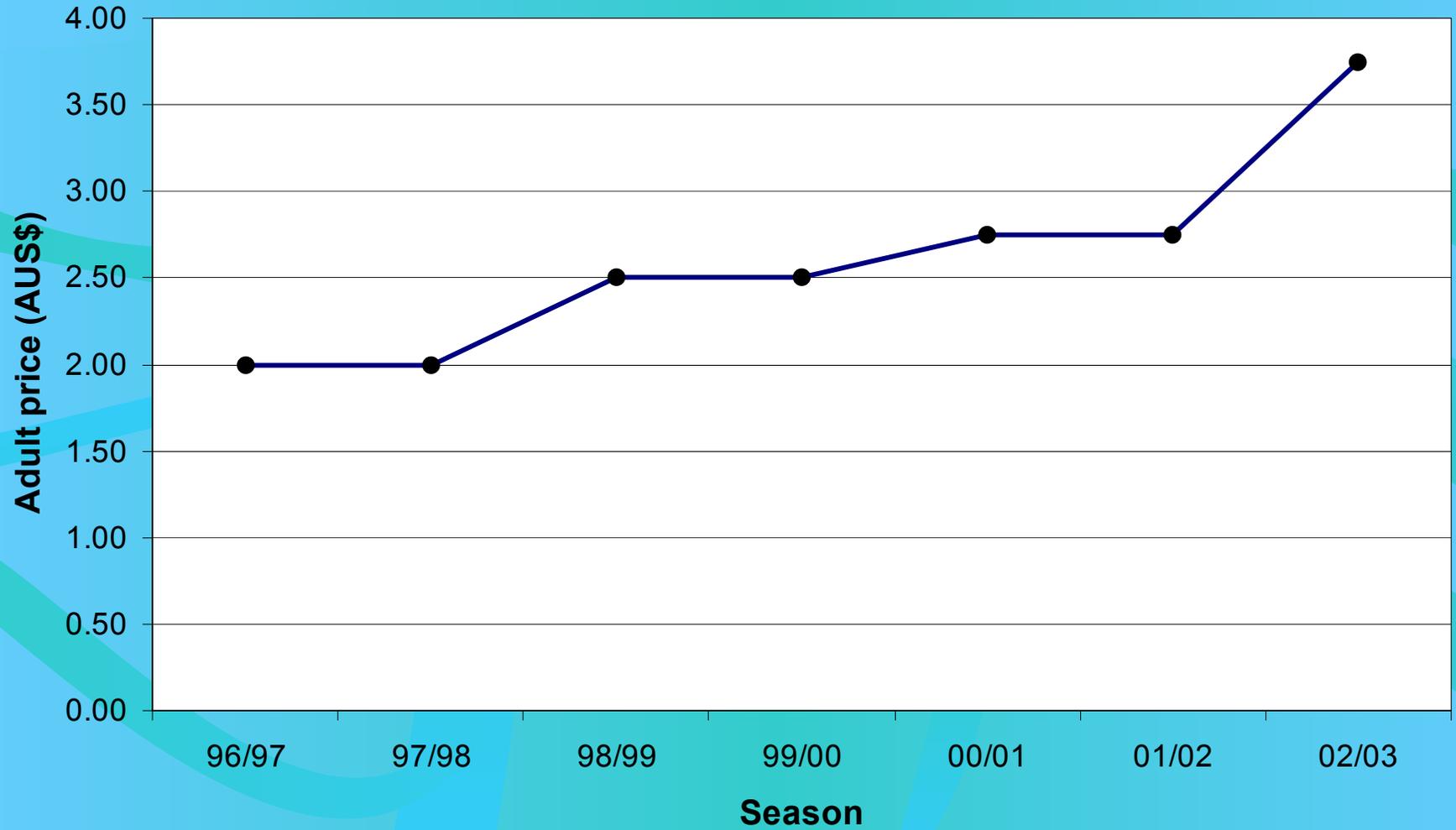


Total yearly visitors to the PEIDC 1996 - 2003



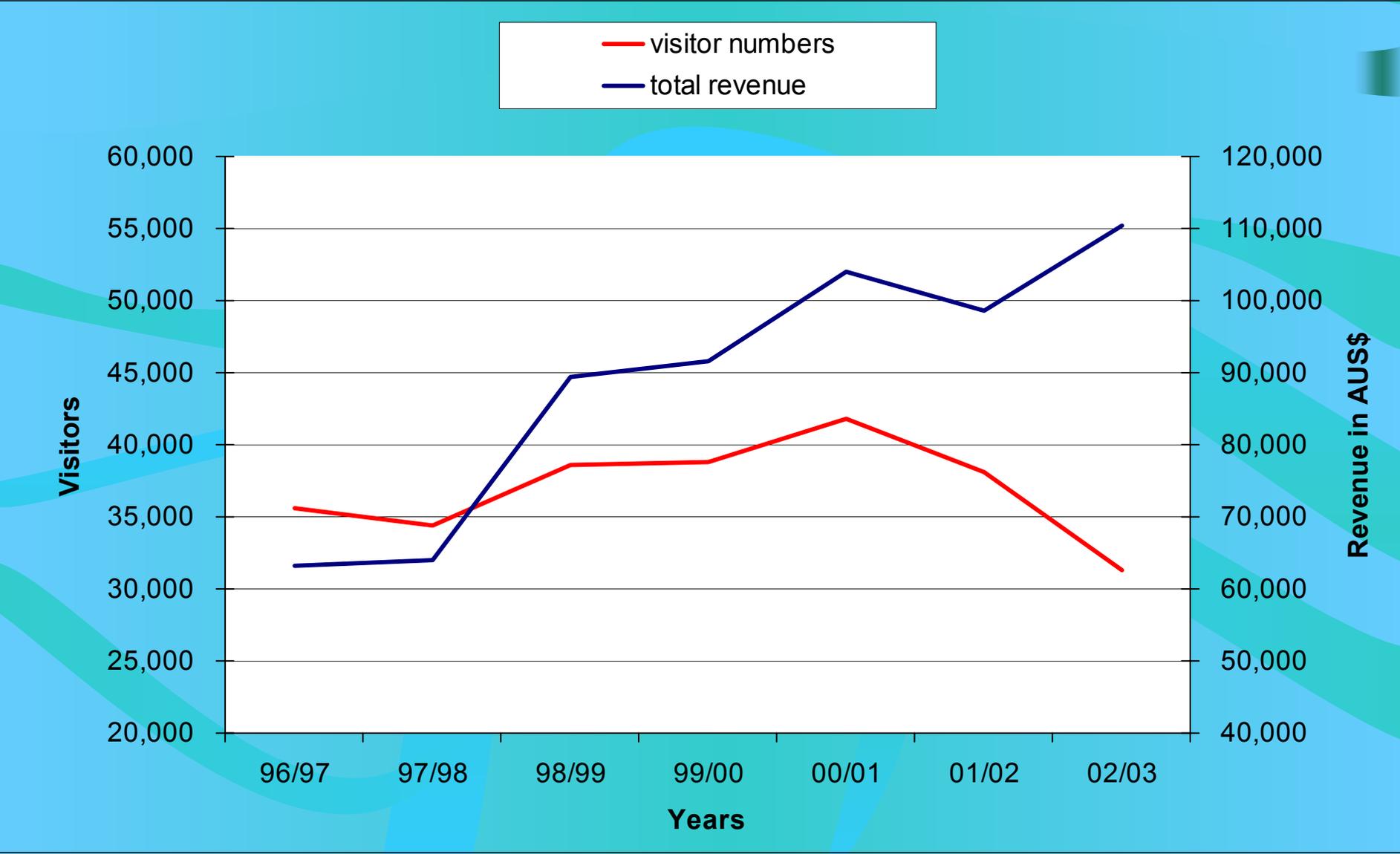
Source: CALM PEIDC sales records 1996 - 2003

Amount CALM charge the CTO for every adult traveling by ferry to the PEIDC 1996 - 2003



Source: CALM PEIDC sales records 1996 - 2003

Total annual CALM revenue compared to total annual visitors to the PEIDC 1996 -2003



Source: CALM PEIDC sales records 1996 - 2003



Penguin Island visitor surveys 1996, 2000, 2001 & 2002

For the majority of respondents, it was their first time visit;

Reason for visiting was to see the Penguins and to swim/snorkel;

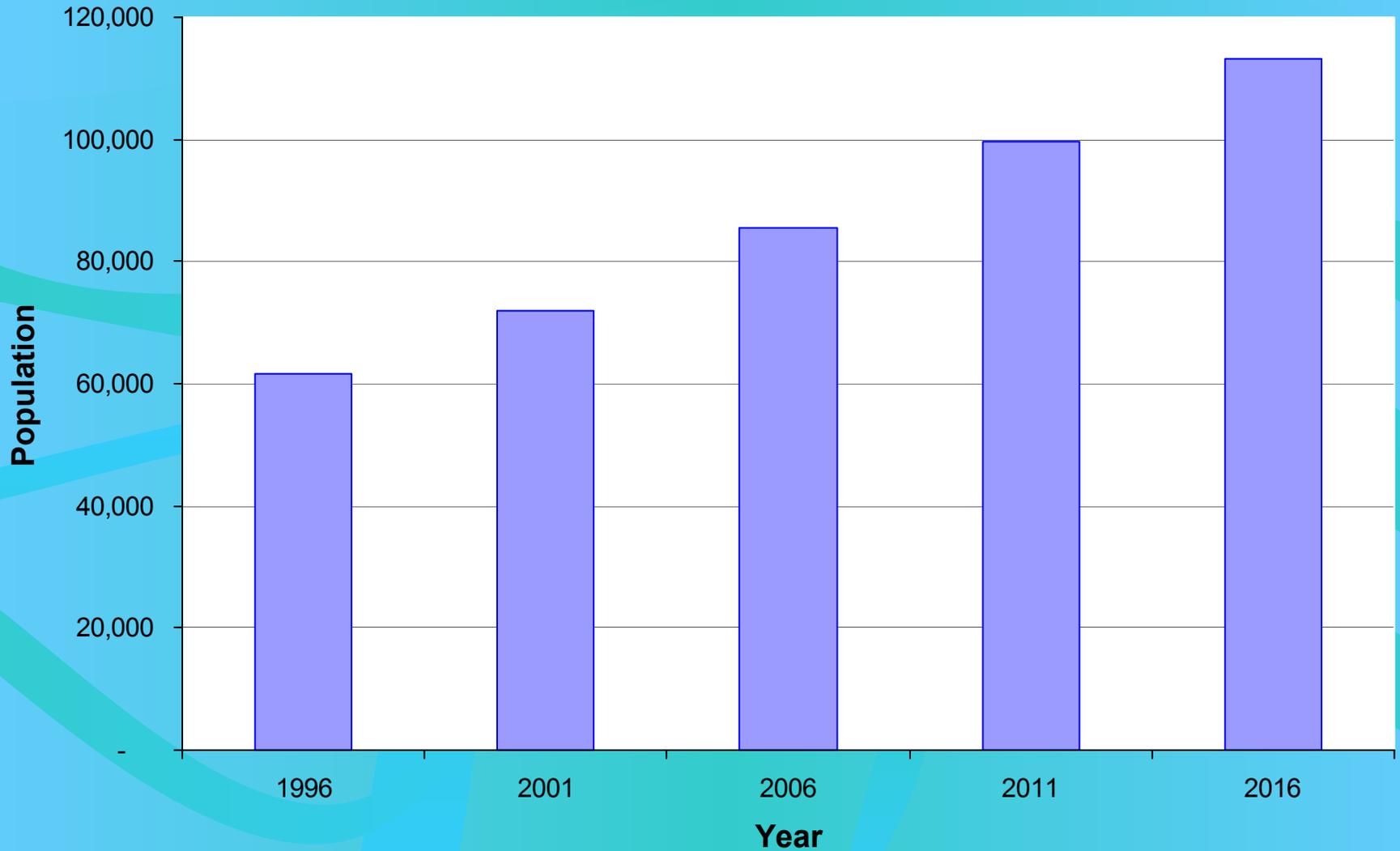
More than 50% of all visitors hear about Penguin Island through word of mouth;

More than 77% of visitors are with family and friends;

Majority are between 25 and 39 years old; and

Majority are from the Perth metropolitan area

Population projections for the City of Rockingham 2001





Discussion

- People-based activities increasing, craft-based activities are not showing any trends
- People based activities increasing fast at Point Peron and Penguin Island
- Accessibility plays an important role in high use areas
- Increasing costs of ferry and entrance into PEIDC may mean increasing number of visitors are walking the Mersey Point sandbar



Discussion (cont.)

- Australian Sea Lion Interaction is the major issue
- CALM boat patrols only monitor 200 meters diameter around chosen high use areas, aerial survey counted craft in unmonitored areas
- Aerial surveys cost approximately \$475 and boat patrols cost approximately \$400.



Recommendations

- Develop a monitoring programme that encompasses entire of SIMP;
- Incorporate monitoring of sandbar (early morning users);
- Integrate monitoring of the Islands and the Marine Park;
- Integrate monitoring of Rockingham Lakes Regional Park and SIMP;
- Education & interpretation – Australian Sea Lion interaction, diving and island nature reserve access; and
- Undertake a visitor questionnaire of SIMP, not just Penguin Island.



Conclusion

- People-based activities in SIMP are increasing; craft-based activities in SIMP show flat trends
- There is a need for a comprehensive visitor monitoring programme for the whole of SIMP
- The importance of monitoring visitor use is becoming more and more important in the management of natural resource management.