

Sustainability in Cold Water Islands

Jerome L. McElroy
Professor of Economics
Department of Business Administration and Economics
Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556
jmcelroy@saintmarys.edu

and

Bruce Potter
President, Island Resources Foundation
1718 "P" Street NW, Suite T-4
Washington, DC 20036
bpotter@irf.org

Abstract

This chapter focuses on achieving sustainable tourism, particularly in small cold water islands where coming decades will witness an escalation of tourism demand. It argues that the origin of the ST concept is based on dissatisfaction with the damaging spread of mass tourism across the pleasure periphery and the evolution of research from advocating low-impact ecotourism and other small-scale styles to calls for more holistic transdisciplinary thinking. It reviews present problems and proposes the "Sustainability Diamond": simultaneously satisfying the needs of hosts, guests and entrepreneurs along with the preservation of natural and cultural assets. Lessons from warm-water tourism experience and the lifecycle literature are emphasized. Finally, common attractions and constraints are identified among the cold water destinations examined in this volume, and waste management and climate change issues are addressed. The conclusion suggests these islands by and large are on a sustainable path.