

Using citizen science to help protect coastal threatened species in Taranaki

Funded by: *A Nation of Curious Minds* (MBIE)

Aim of Project Hotspot:

- Capture local knowledge on four coastal threatened species in Taranaki
- Use this information to better protect these species and their habitats





Run through local schools in Taranaki:



Supported by:

Community groups:

Nga Motu Marine Reserve Society

Experiencing Marine Reserves

Taranaki Conservationists

Community:

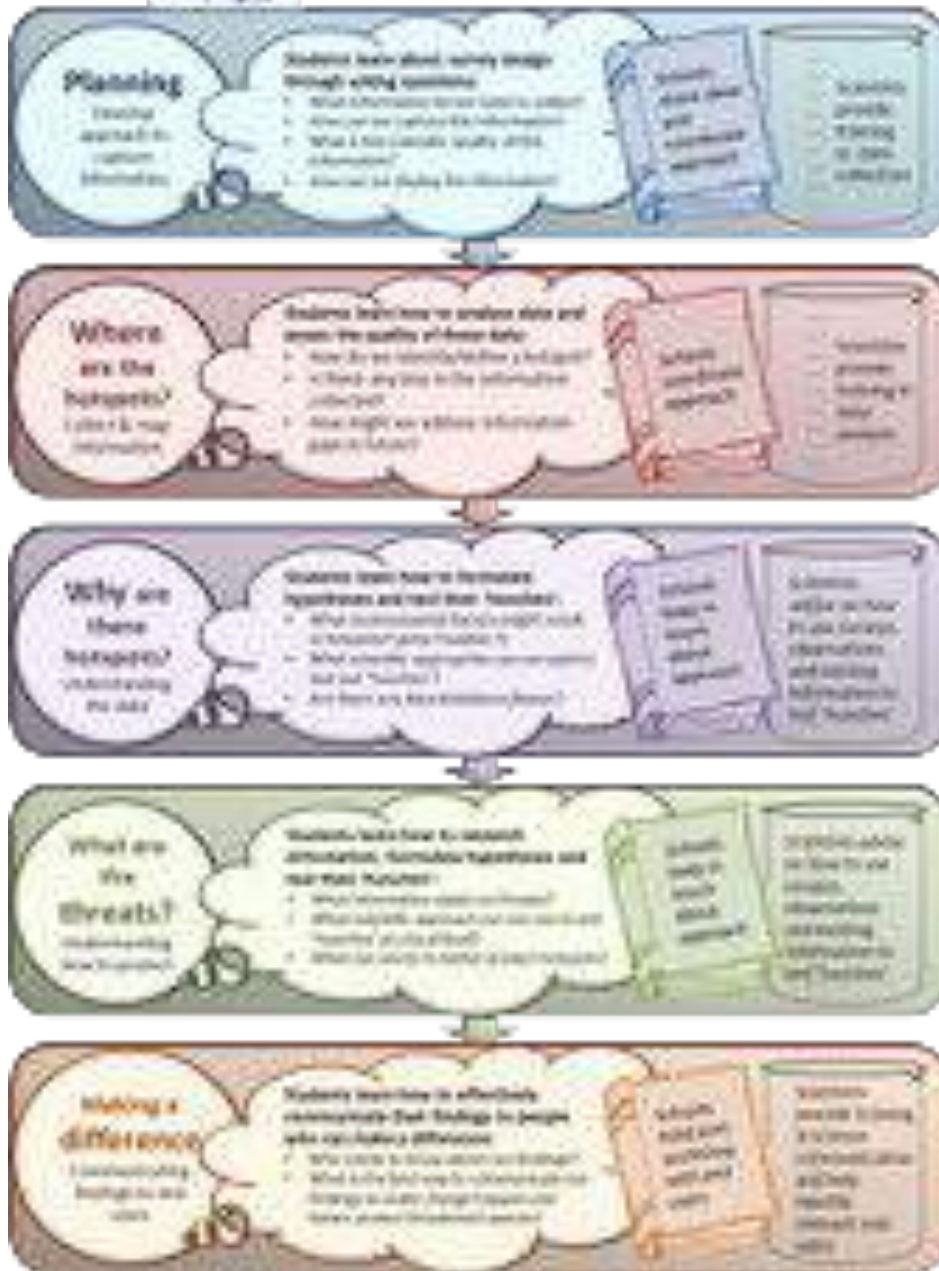
Surf clubs

Fishing clubs

Surf lifesavers

Local beach goers





Steps:

- Capture local knowledge (NatureWatch NZ)
- Identify hotspots
- Why do hotspots occur?
- What are the main threats?
- What can be done to better protect?
- Communicate findings to end users (community, government authorities, conservation groups, industry)

Results so far: Orca

- >100 sightings in Taranaki
- Identifying individual orca: dorsal fin



Results so far: Reef heron

- >40 sightings in Taranaki
- Identifying individual reef herons: leg markings



Results so far: Little blue penguin

- >150 sightings in Taranaki
- Raising awareness of dog attacks: successful penguin release



Results so far: Seals

- >300 sightings in NZ
- Better understanding of coastline distribution





Lots happening.....

Orcas video sees Project Hotspot gain international attention



New study will look at numbers of four species in Taranaki waters



Orcas spotting new weekend pastime



..... and lots more to come!

Thank you!



www.hotspot.org.nz

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