



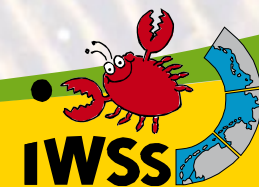
BeachExplorer

- a concept to monitor changes in marine biodiversity
- without funding
- so far...

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SCHUTZSTATION WATTENMEER



Idea: Recording of findings on the Wadden Sea coast by „public science“

- promotion and support of nature observation
- recording and provision of observation data
- trilateral cooperation in environmental observation



Cause: seas at change

- species change through climate change
- accelerated invasion through globalization
- species decline through over-exploitation
- marine pollution as permanent threat
- interest in marine protection needs promotion



Project contents

- web based recording of beach findings
- educational program „BeachDetective“ for children
- training for conservation field staff
- exhibition module „BeachExplorer“ for info centres



Questions

- immigration of species? (alien & southern)
- distribution pattern of neobiota?
- occurrence of stray species?
- abundance change of indigenous species?
- former distribution of disappeared species?
- re-appearing of locally extinct species?
- phenological changes?





Project aims

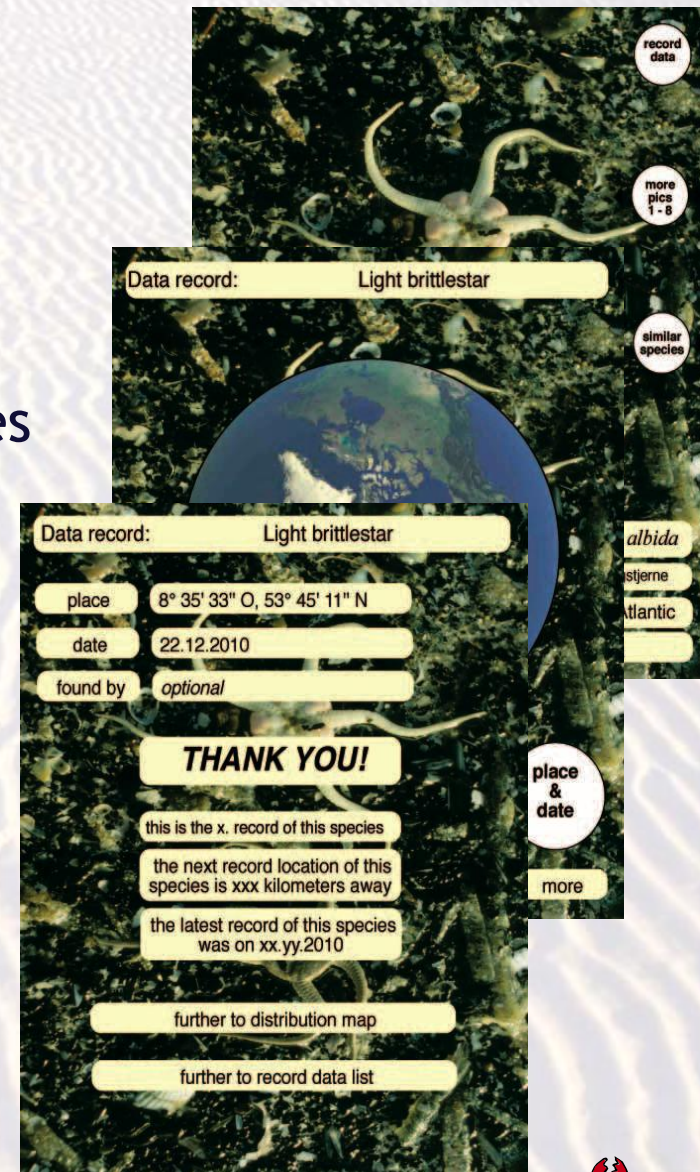
- collection of individual observations
- motivation for nature observation
- interactive information offer on the internet
- trilateral educational offer for schools

- connection with TMAP programs
- cooperation with tourism



Project detail 1: website

- species portraits as determination aid
- digital entry mask with GPS-coordinates
- smartphone front-end
- data file of all records
- data check and determination check
- background infos on marine protection



Project detail 2: BeachDetective

- outdoor-program for school groups
 - search tasks for small groups
 - data input into BeachExplorer data base
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- access to data from the whole trilateral Wadden Sea
 - evaluation examples and work sheets
 - background information on marine protection



Project detail 3: staff training

- inclusion in volunteer seminars
- regular observation schemes
- motivated observers
- data of medium quality - or better!
- raising of new naturalists



Project detail 4: info modules

- exhibition module about beaches
- presentation of project results
- web-access to the data base
- service point for beach combers
- background information on marine protection



Evaluation (possible parameters)

- number of data records
- number of website visitors
- number of BeachDetective participants
- number of trained conservation staff
- number of exhibition visitors
- performance in alien detection
- publications



Cooperations

- SCHUTZSTATION WATTENMEER as lead partner
- IWSS as exchange forum
- CWSS for data handling
- Ecomare & Stichting De Noordzee for BeachDetective program („CoastWatch+“)
- Vadehavscentret Vester Vedsted for info modules
- GiMaRis, AWI, Senckenberg for identification?
- NOBANIS for information exchange?



Transfer opportunities for the future

- experiences with effort vs. outcome
- transfer of data base structure
- transfer of BeachDetective program
- advice service for conservation staff



Conclusions BeachExplorer

- trilateral concept for trilateral cooperation
- innovative, web-based public monitoring
- interdisciplinary scientific & educational approach
- wanted: ideas for funding



Thank you for your
attention!

