

translating nature into knowledge

### INSTITUTE FOR MARINE AND ANTARCTIC STUDIES

Redmap: a database and mapping resource for observational marine species data

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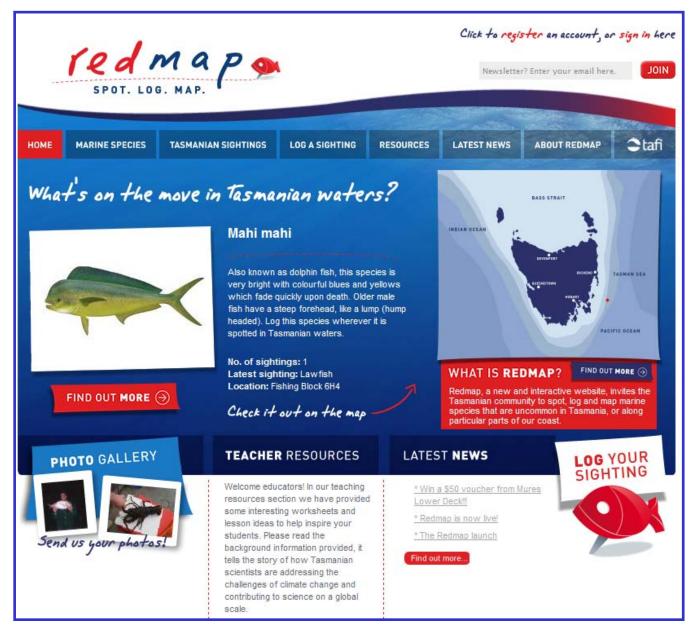








IMAS - in partnership with the Tasmanian State Government



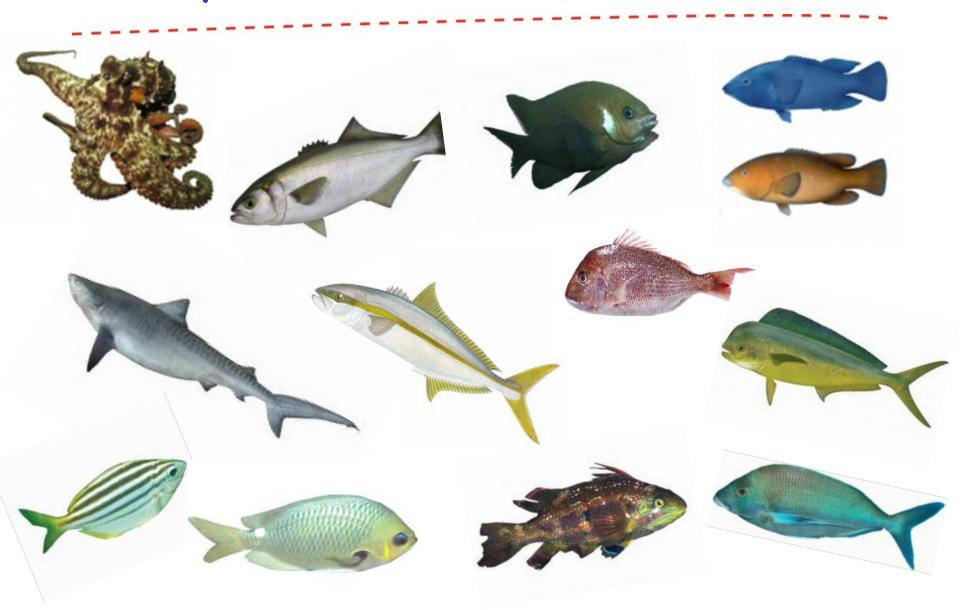
- Range Extension
   Database & Mapping
- Record 'out-ofrange' species
- Pilot project in Tasmania
- Started Dec 2009
- Currently being developed Australiawide



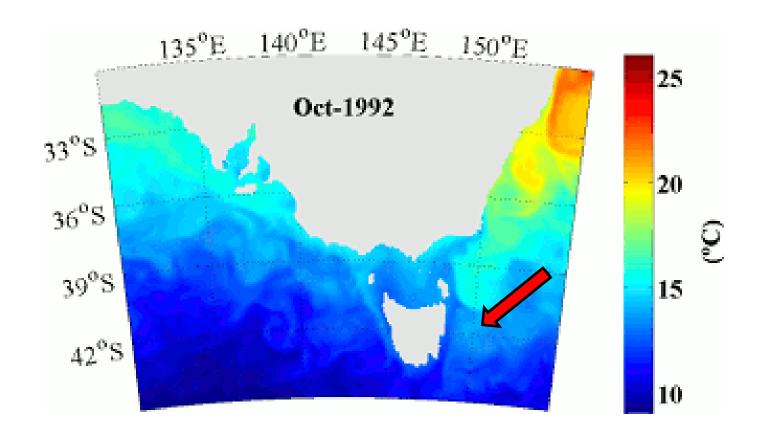


UTAS VC's Outstanding Community Engagement Award 2011

# Several dozen new and range-extending species in Tasmania (since 1970) Last et al. 2010



### Oceanographic changes in Tasmania



East Australian Current (EAC) - pushing further south and persisting for longer throughout the year

# Specific 'ecological' aims of Redmap

- What 'new' or 'uncommon' species, usually observed only in warmer waters, are fishers and divers seeing in Tasmanian waters?
- Are these species being observed over cooler months/years, or only warmer months/years?
  - Over winter or in large numbers stronger evidence of 'range-shift'
- Is there evidence of a shift in distribution?
  - Evaluate using presence only Species Distribution Models
  - Modelling approaches to assess impact of 'new' species on existing ecosystem
  - EARLY INDICATION of 'new' species (+/-)
  - Manage new species proactively to maximise benefits/minimise impacts SPATIAL PLANNING



### Redmap: Capturing & maximising local knowledge

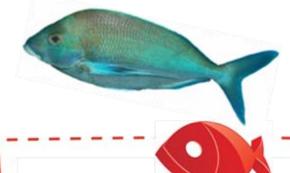
- Two-way knowledge exchange
- Gaps in knowledge being addressed in partnership

### BROAD AIMS

- Monitoring for ecological change large coastline & large-scale/long-term monitoring programs difficult!
- Engage, informs and educate our marine communities (using their own data)







WWW.REDMAP.ORG.AU

### Fishing industry perceptions of climate change



Fishers have varying perceptions on reality of climate change

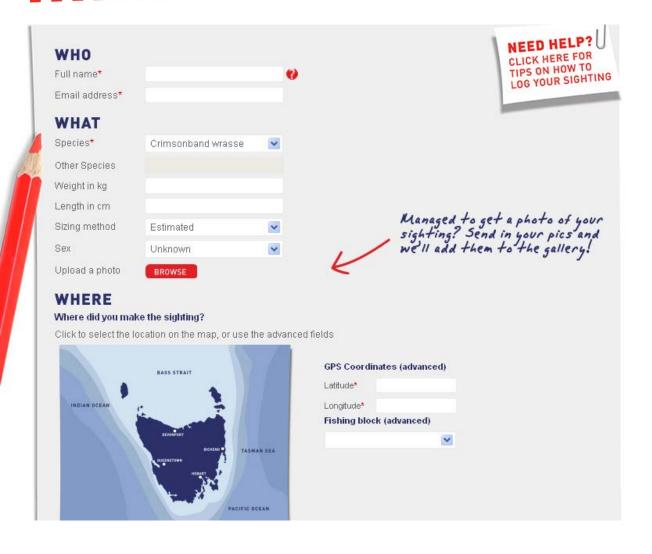
- 80% believe climate change is not happening
- 20% believe climate change is either happening or that 'something is up'

Fishers acknowledge changes BUT NOT climate change

#### COMMUNICATION IS A PRIORITY!!

(Nursey-Bray, Pecl et al. 2011, Marine Policy)

# Logging a sighting is easy



- Community sightings
- Verified sightings (with a photo)
- Trained members (scientists, Reef Life Survey volunteers, museum staff)
- Listed species but can submit sightings of ANY species suspected or known to be unusual

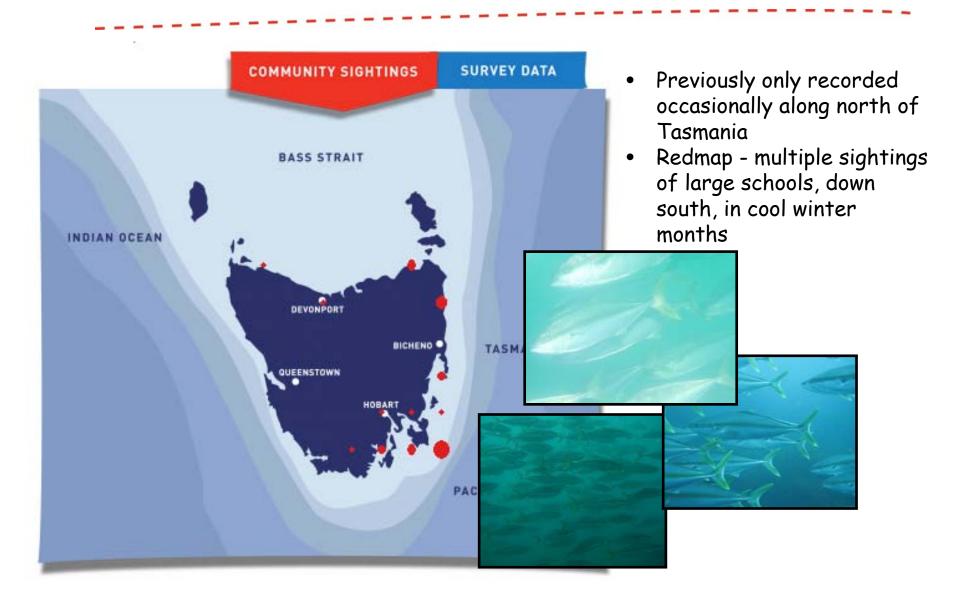


### Quality photos submitted to verify sightings



Photos are ID'ed by many scientists - thanks to Rick Stuart-Smith, Graham Edgar, Neville Barrett, Peter Last & Daniel Gledhill in particular

# Yelowtail Kingfish





# Success so far....

- 450 sightings, 70 species from 140 people
- Data used in 3 journal publications so far
- Target research projects & management change
- Over 50,000 discrete visits (hits) on the site
- 150,000 page downloads
- Visits from 165 countries
- 750 newsletter subscribers
- Radio, tv, print media
- Many emails requesting more stuff!
- Invitations to present at industry forums
- Climate change & marine species 3rd most visited section of site







# Why does Redmap work?



- Engaging website with clear project branding
- Immediate display of most community & fisher reported data
- Individual feedback provided for sightings with photos
- Recognition of contributions on website & in project newsletters
- Clear acknowledgement & valuing of industry & community knowledge
- Fishers love talking about what they caught & divers love taking photos!



## Next Steps - Redmap Australia

- Launches October 2012
- Greater species information and reporting invertebrates, turtles, sharks etc
- Upload videos & multiple photos
- Increased engagement (ability to add captions on photos, link to Facebook)
- Extract geo-referencing information from submitted photos
- iPhone application for SMS reporting
- Automated allocation/distribution of sightings for verification

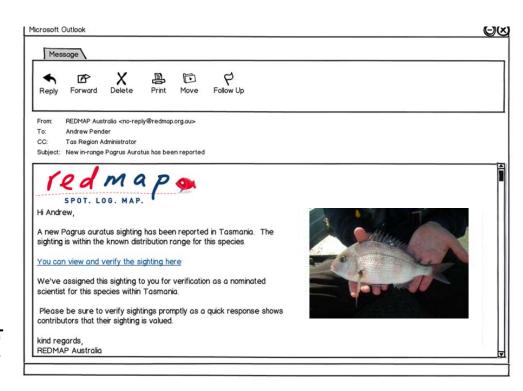




# Scaling up: managing data & validation on a larger scale

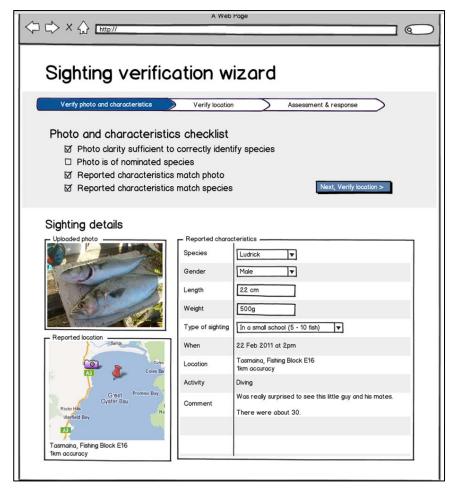


- Semi-automating data flows & validation in Redmap Australia
- Expert panel of scientists for validation of photos (50+ - 100's)
- Each species of interest highlighted on website is linked to a scientist
- Distributed workload across many scientists all over Australiaindividuals interested in particular species
- When a sighting submitted scientist gets automatically sent an email alert

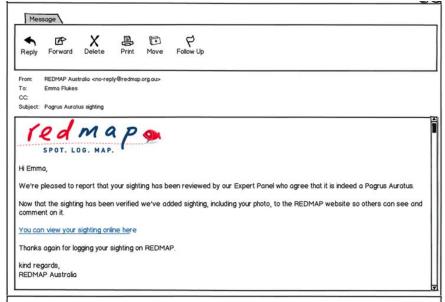


'Crowdsourcing' validation from large network of scientists - creating robust verifiable data from the untrained public

# For the scientist: validating species ID and verification of sighting details is simple



# Providing feedback to the observer (fisher or diver) is easy - sent an automatic acknowledgement



## Long-term benefits of Redmap

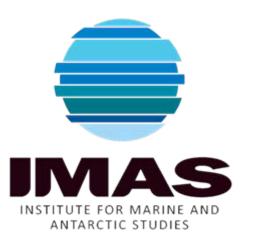
- Ecological monitoring species ranges
- Cost effective way to identify where research could be targeted
- Promoting awareness within the general community (e.g. linkages with Facebook)
- Involving & engaging industry acknowledge & values contribution
- Gives industry and community ownership of some of the knowledge
- Potential to improve adaptive capacity of marine industries indirectly - something constructive they can do to help!



Redmap Australia launches October 2012- 60,000km of coastline and 3.5 million fishers & divers!









### **Australian Government**

Department of Agriculture, **Fisheries and Forestry** 



Government of Western Australia Department of Fisheries

















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### www.imas.utas.edu.au





Keep up to date with what's on the move around Australia via our quarterly electronic newsletter

### Many thanks to:

- Recreational & commercial fishers
- **SCUBA** divers
- Scientific validation panel
- Contributing author scientists
- Community & industry groups that support Redmap