Marine Science in Action

Taking the on-ground principle underwater in NSW

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CMAs getting some action “on-ground” & “in-water”

- Australian & NSW Govt $$
- Baseline research, monitoring, assessment
- NSW Marine Habitat Mapping Project
- In-water works: seagrass friendly moorings
- Marine Education

The Spectacular Murray Canyons
South Australia
HABMAP: Marine Habitat Mapping

Department of Environmental and Ocean Sciences

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Science meets Community
• Changing human behaviour = on-ground
• Marine Discovery Series
• Project Aware On the Rocks
• URGs and UGs
• Integrated projects and corporate $$

Why do it?
• Transform perception of the marine world
• Use wow factor to start people thinking
• Bring balance to public debate on MPAs
• Try and get people actively involved
Marine Discovery Series

- Media coverage
- Thousands of people attended
- Corporate sponsorship
- Greater involvement of local govt
- New underwater volunteer groups

Who are SURG?

- Local community members - all walks of life who are passionate about the marine environment
- Tertiary trained biologists
- Talented underwater photographers
- All are keen naturalists

Divers tackle reef rubbish problem

Havens for biodiversity
Demand for headlands’ protection

Fish species of Julian Rocks
- Snnas
- Fish species of Julian Rocks
- Semi-glasses and tenkara (D)
New underwater volunteers

- Port Macquarie Underwater Research Group (PURG)
- Great Lakes Underwater Group (GLUG)
- Terrigal Underwater Group (TUG)
- Charlestown Dive Social Club

Research, monitoring, education, Clean-ups

NSW Marine Habitat Mapping Project

Review of Underwater Volunteer Groups / Development of Methods

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Thanks!