

# BeachExplorer.org

## Visitors become Citizen Scientists



Bundesministerium  
für Umwelt, Naturschutz,  
Bau und Reaktorsicherheit

leben.natur.vielfalt



das Bundesprogramm



# Basic data about BeachExplorer

- Northsea: Den Helder - Malmö (+ BalticExplorer)
- Determination key for 2000+ objects
- Project start 2012, online 2014
- 27,000 observation records
- 2,500 registered users
- 500 (100) app-downloads / month, 60 iOS users / day
- Data via naturgucker.de to GBIF.org

Aim: Environmental education + nature observation

# Quality management

- Score system: 1 to 10 points for every record
- 3 performance levels for users (500 / 2000 points)
- 3 difficulty levels for species
- Clearance „box“ for doubtful reports
- Goal: 98 % correct determinations

# Data quality survey (09/18)

- 3,000 out of 24,000 data sets checked
- 50 % of all records come with pictures
- Picture quota varies between species (20 - 75 %)
- 24 out of 1429 pictures not identifiable (1,7 %)
- 84 out of 1429 records misidentified (5,9 %)

# Pictures in BeachExplorer

- Rarely taken: common bivalves
- Often taken: pretty/ strange/ scary stuff
- Very often taken: Amber (73 %)
- Really bad pictures are really rare (1,6 %)





# Species identification performance

- 50 % without pics: common stuff or advanced users
- Most common species: 7 out of 10 with <4 % fails
- Mistakes often in „medium common“ species
- Rare species not free of mistakes after clearance

# Top: rare medium sized species



Cryst.: new in D



Ling: new in D



Manila: new in D



Tellin: new in D



new Northsea



Pearlside 2x



Lesser Octo 9 x



Black lug 18 x

- Northsea warming visible (Tuerkay 2015)
- Effects of winter storms recognizable
- First records & spread of neobiota



# Perspectives

- Anonymous records -> in use
  - Digital class room -> ready for use
  - Newsletter, user contact -> missing
  - LakeExplorer for freshwater -> coming
- Promotion of digital nature studies (App framework)

*Please spread the word:*



[www.beachexplorer.org](http://www.beachexplorer.org)  
[www.balticexplorer.org](http://www.balticexplorer.org)

Mit Dank an:

BMU / BfN



Bundesministerium  
für Umwelt, Naturschutz  
und nukleare Sicherheit



BINGO!-Umweltstiftung



Lighthouse Foundation



LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION

STIFTUNG FÜR DIE MEERE UND OZEANE

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Enjoy  
beachcombing!

[www.beachexplorer.org](http://www.beachexplorer.org)  
[www.balticexplorer.org](http://www.balticexplorer.org)