



Our Estuaries: an online hub where to next?

Helen Kettles

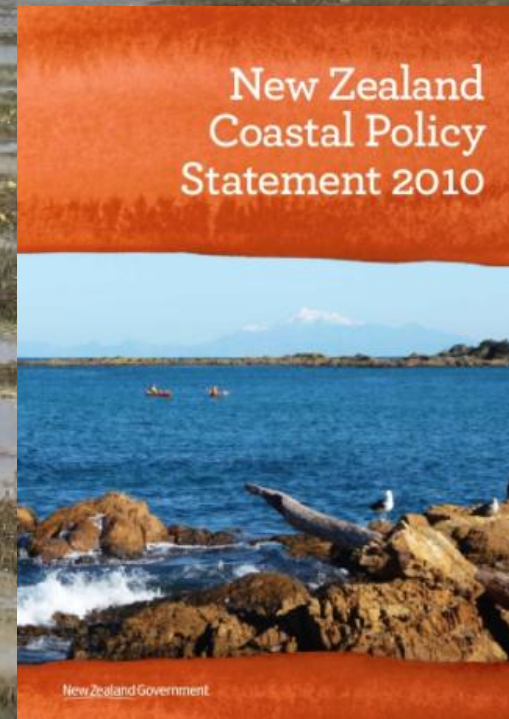
Technical Advisor - Marine Ecosystems Team

Estuaries overview role



Globally
0.35% area
12.2% ecosystem
services

Over 400
estuarine
systems in
NZ



We trust others

Governing with citizens

DOC as service facilitator, collaborator, enabler, partner

Outwardly focused

DOC and citizens' own outcomes

Agility

Managed risk

Organisational networks

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Ataturu

Parks & recreation Nature Get Involved Our work

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Estuaries





Estuaries are special places where rivers meet the sea. Each one is unique, ranging from small lagoons to extensive wetland harbour systems.

This 'Our Estuaries' section will help you explore our many estuaries with those monitoring and protecting them.

We welcome [your feedback](#) to improve this resource.

1 of 12
Bird watching at Mōkaike Spit
PHOTO: Stephen Wynne-Jones | DOC

We celebrate this collective work and connect people with each other and resources. There is something for everyone: tangata whenua, community groups, families, teachers and management agencies.

About estuaries	Experiencing estuaries map	Monitoring estuaries map	Restoring estuaries map
 <p>Estuaries are dynamic, rich ecosystems where freshwater mixes with the sea. Find out why they are important and some of the threats they face.</p>	 <p>Use this map to find out how to experience our estuaries virtually or in person through birdwatching, films, exploring mudflats and walks and other ways.</p>	 <p>Kiwis are watching over 150 estuaries and recording what they see. Use this interactive map to explore information collected on their health by agencies and people like you.</p>	 <p>Find out where agencies and communities are working together to enhance estuaries and how to get involved in projects protecting the places special to you.</p>

www.doc.govt.nz/estuaries

Restoration

50 coastal wetlands

42 catchments

Mountains to sea, ki uta ki tai



Photo: Patti Vanderburg



Ahuriri Estuary Restoration Group

Hawke's Bay - Ahuriri Estuary
This community initiative is conserving and restoring the environmental condition of the Ahuriri Estuary and its lower catchment, which was destroyed by fire in 2003. The group's work involves removing weeds and planting native vegetation.

[Ahuriri Estuary Restoration Group](#)

Zoom to

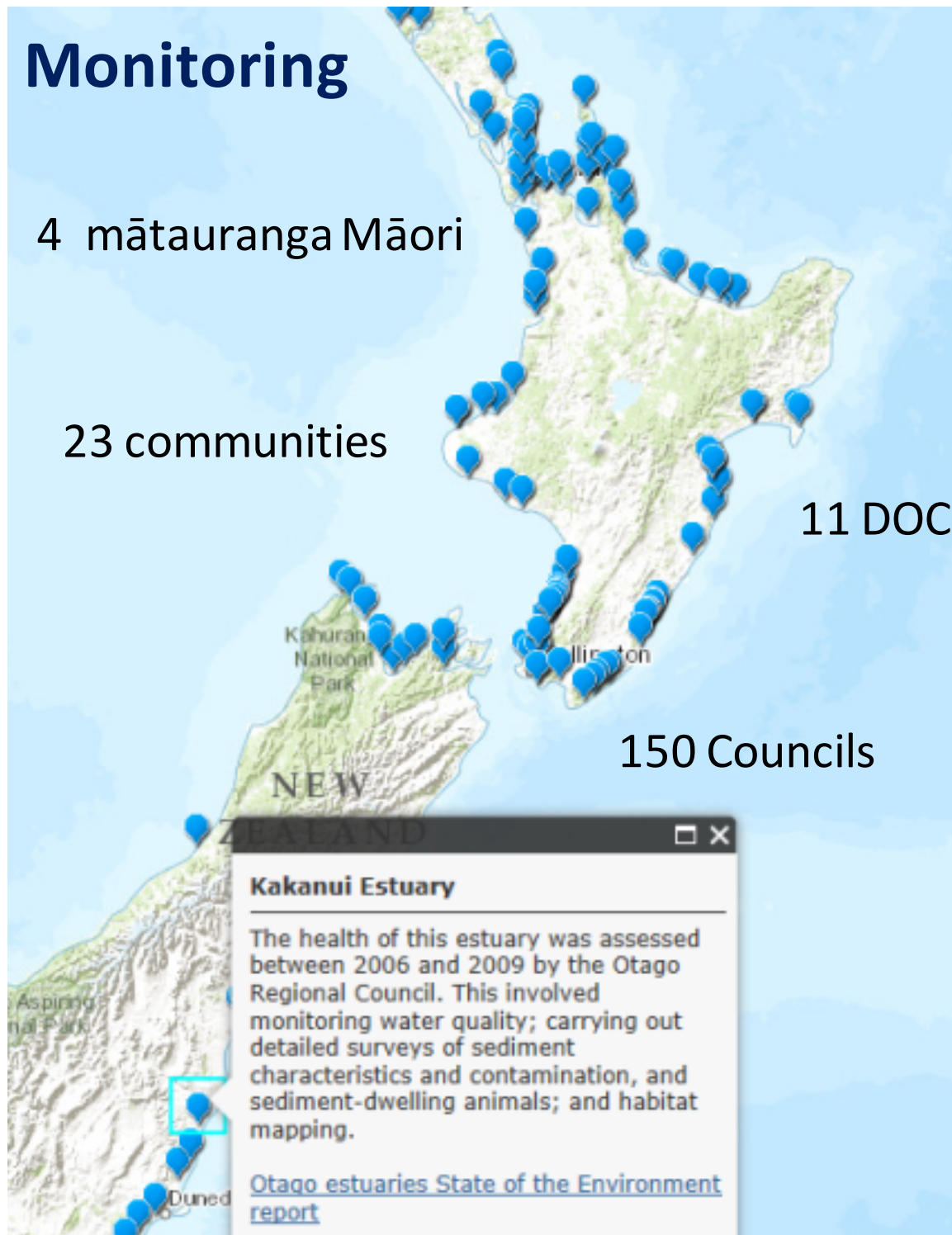
Monitoring

4 mātauranga Māori

23 communities

11 DOC

150 Councils



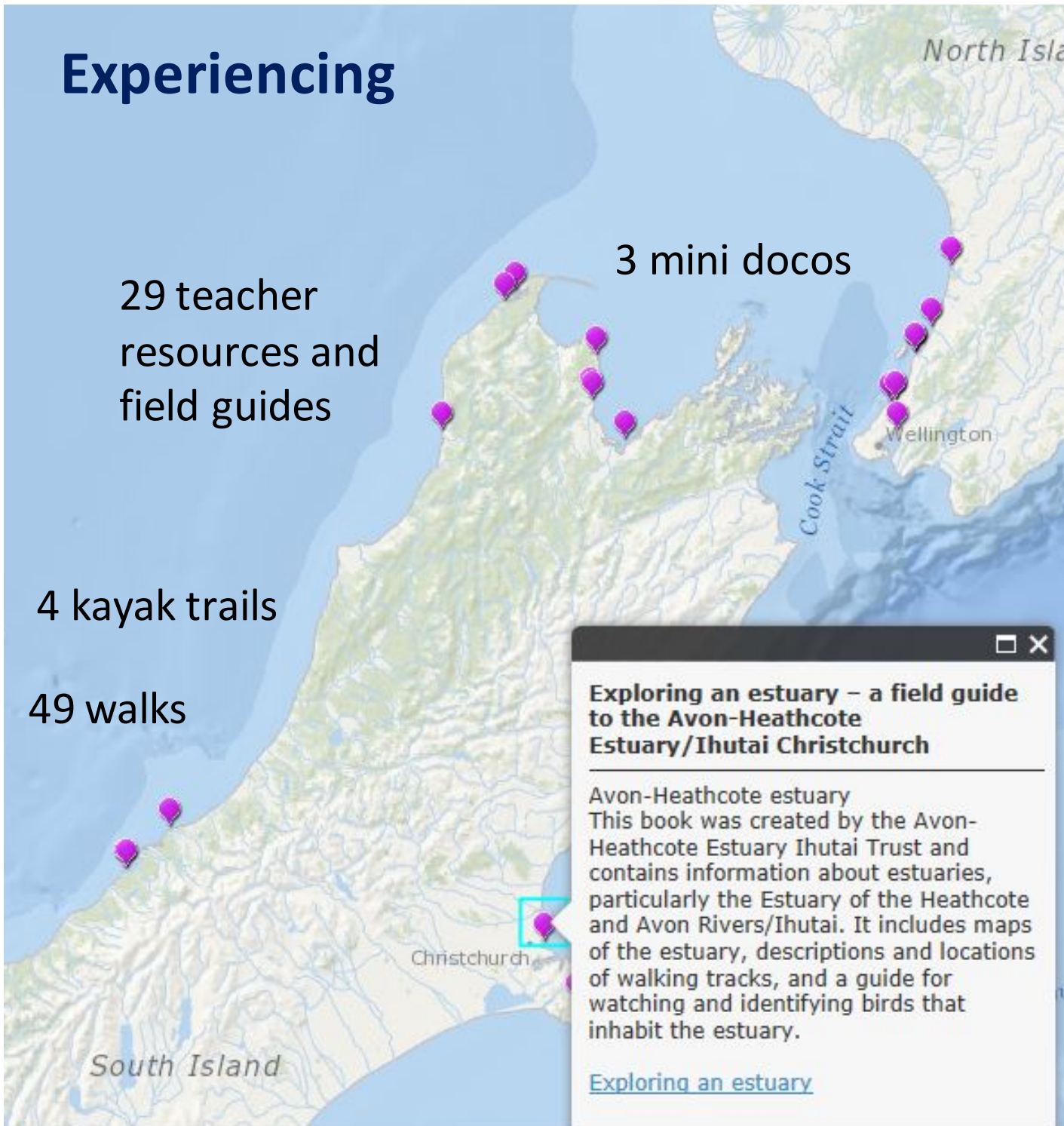
Experiencing

29 teacher resources and field guides

3 mini docs

4 kayak trails

49 walks



Exploring an estuary – a field guide to the Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai Christchurch

Avon-Heathcote estuary
This book was created by the Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust and contains information about estuaries, particularly the Estuary of the Heathcote and Avon Rivers/Ihutai. It includes maps of the estuary, descriptions and locations of walking tracks, and a guide for watching and identifying birds that inhabit the estuary.

[Exploring an estuary](#)



Estuaries on social media

Over 100 posts

Feeling inspired by one of **#OurEstuaries?** Share your photos on social media and you may have your experiences featured here.



MERG @MERG_NEWZEALAND
23 days ago
MERG is celebrating #WorldOceansDay by posting our favorite sea critters! A common mud crab in #OurEstuaries
pic.twitter.com/n0eJvPcXv



Alison Ballance @AlisonBallance
a month ago
A rare fish sighting for Waikanae estuary NZ. A juvenile deep sea Myctophid. Has light organs along its belly
pic.twitter.com/0KDV02XtmJ



undefined
a month ago
#ourestuaries, #nz style



MERG @MERG_NEWZEALAND
a month ago
Another inhabitant of #OurEstuaries, the oystercatcher looking for snacks in the Avon-Heathcote #estuary #NewZealand
pic.twitter.com/QJ93ExJUXj



Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebirds
a month ago
It's always worth having a good look around when you are at Pukorokoro Miranda, as you never know what you might see. This shore skink was spotted at the new hide by some



Alfonso Siciliano @alf_siciliano
a month ago
I'm in... with the #habitatcascade in #OurEstuaries. pic.twitter.com/IVolKrvqPT



Helen Kettles
@CaptainKettles

TWEETS
5,148

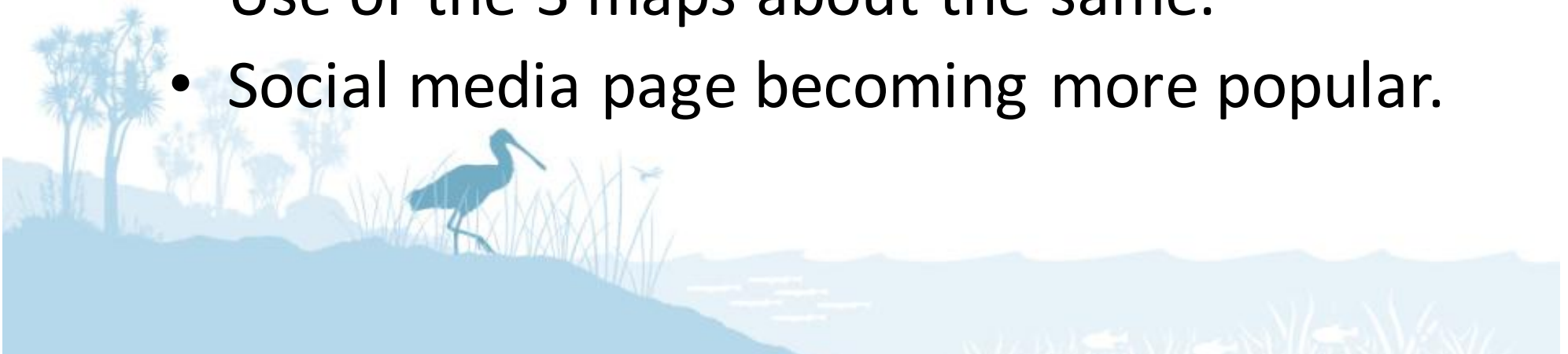
FOLLOWING
313

FOLLOWERS
462

Google Analytics



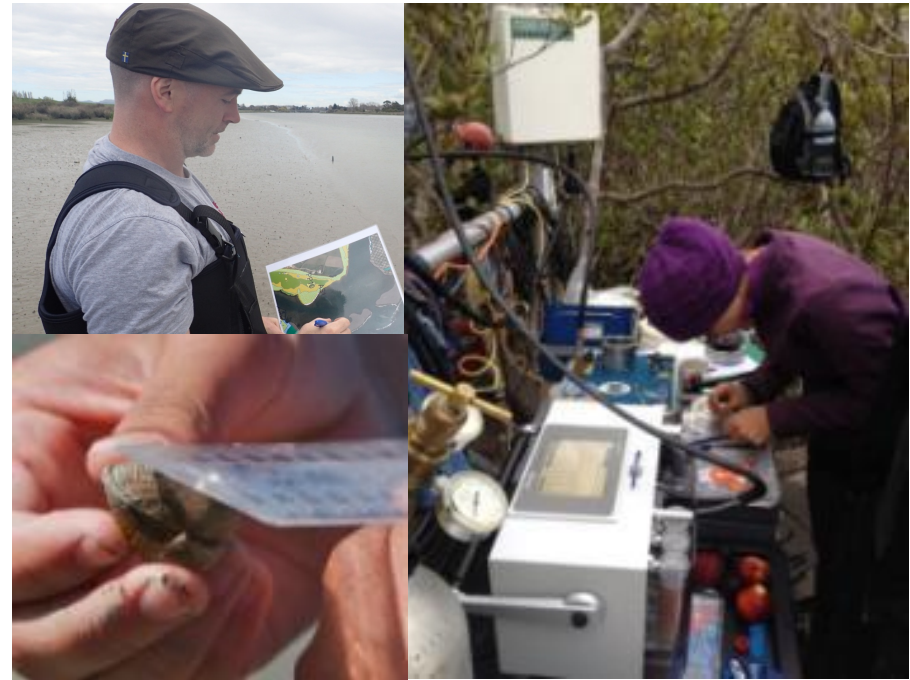
- 25,000 page views
- 3,500 users – 53% return users
- 75% are from NZ
- 20% Auck, 14 % Wgtn, 11% Ham, 8% Chch, 5% Napier, 4% Tauranga, 3% Dunedin.
- 6 mins average
- Use of the 3 maps about the same.
- Social media page becoming more popular.





Welcome!

to **NatureWatchNZ**, where you can **record** what you see in nature, **meet** other nature watchers, and **learn** about the natural world.



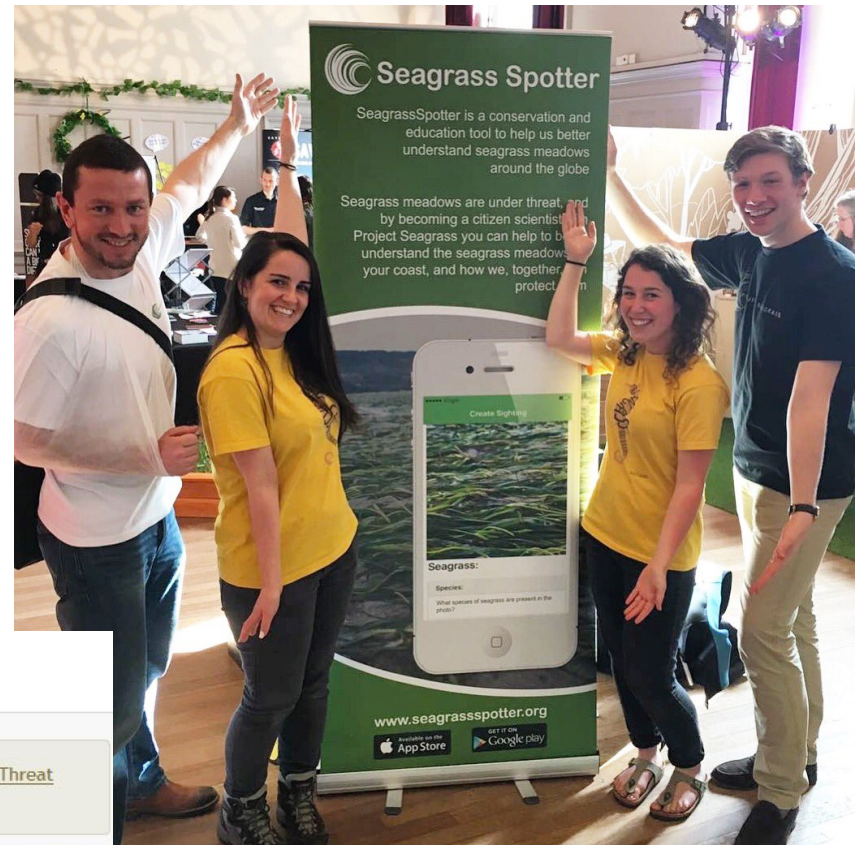
Photos: Oliver Wade, Sebastian Leuzinger, Derrylea Hardy, Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet



X 36 observations

Eelgrass (*Zostera muelleri* ssp. *novozelandica*)

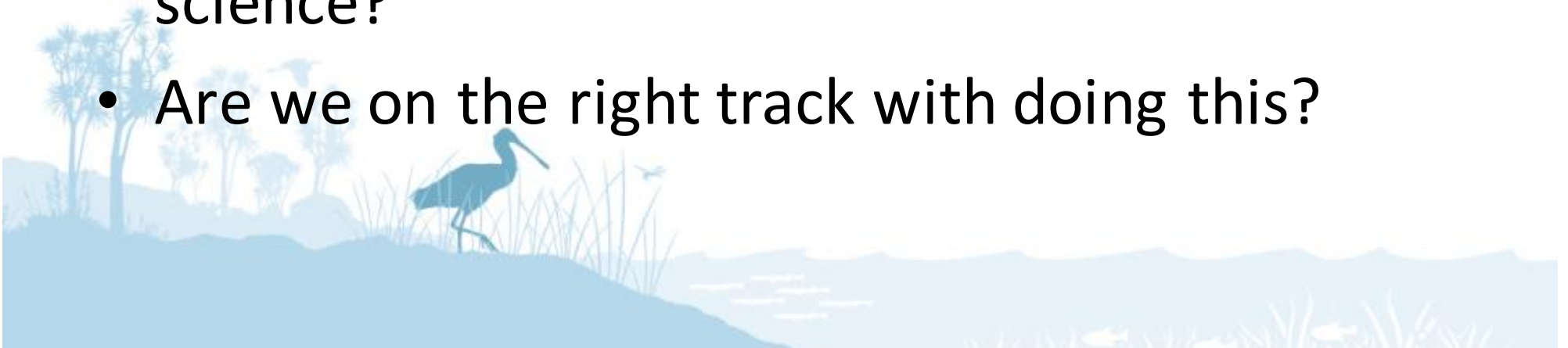
📍 At Risk- Declining- 2012 (Ar) In New Zealand (Source: [New Zealand Threat Classification System](#))



Reports available to users

Keen for feedback

- Do you currently use NatureWatchNZ?
- Would you use a Seagrass App to record sightings?
- Would you be able use the data it collates for your own work?
- Have you got other ideas for seagrass citizen science?
- Are we on the right track with doing this?



Improving connectivity – you can help

- Explore “Our Estuaries” with questions in mind and please give feedback
- Share with networks around the country – citizen scientists living near estuaries, restoration groups.
- Provide a link on your webpages back to the hub
- Hand out pocket cards at events
- Display posters
- Use #OurEstuaries on social media to promote what you are doing



Take home messages

- **DOC estuaries overview and partnerships**
- **Active interest** – communities, agencies, researchers
- **Great online tools** - Our Estuaries hub, NatureWatch, Twitter
- **This is an evolving process** – watch this space and get involved! Help grow your work & impact

Discover
our **estuaries**



Visit DOC's interactive web resource

www.doc.govt.nz/estuaries
#ourestuaries

hkettles@doc.govt.nz

[ourestuaries@doc.govt.nz](https://twitter.com/ourestuaries)

With Thanks!



- Our Estuaries hub team - Melissa Reid, Dion Fabbro, Sarah Wilcox, Peter Badalamenti, Kurt Sharpe
- Seagrass - Shane Orchard (NatureWatchNZ), Richard Unsworth & Adam Rogers (Project Seagrass)
- DOC cit sci project -Don Neale (lead)

