

A visualization tool for citizen-science marine debris big data

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Abstract

We describe the design and structure of a web-based visualization tool for an Australian marine debris database and its application in environmental research, management and science communication. We give examples of its use in generating hypotheses regarding processes driving the distribution of marine debris, identifying source reduction opportunities and communicating science to the public and stakeholders. We suggest this as a model for utilizing other latent environmental data sets, enabling users to implement the five 'source-to-sea' steps to characterize, engage, diagnose, design, act and adapt when addressing leading environmental concerns.

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