



CAPE RADD
RESEARCH &
DIVER DEVELOPMENT

Cape RADD 2018-2019 Impact Report





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Cape RADD Impact report 2018 – 2019

Contents:

- Message from the Founders
- Ethos and mission statement
- Achievements and numbers at a glance
- ‘Snorkel for Science’ Citizen Science numbers, science and impact
 - Our vision for the future



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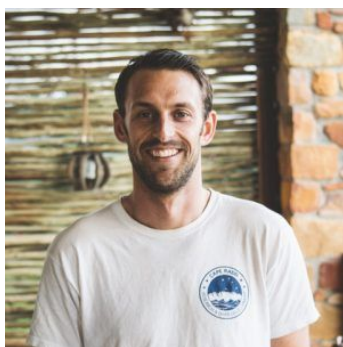
A message from the founders:

We are experiencing a global biodiversity crisis. It is easy to become overwhelmed by the scale and speed at which we seem to be constantly reminded of the demise and eradication of our planet's wildlife and wildplaces. It does sometimes feel hopeless and we as individuals feel helpless. Cape RADD sees and hears this, but we also want to spread a message of hope and celebrate success stories happening all around the world and right on our doorstep of passionate, determined scientists, conservationists, members of the public and societies working hard to make a change and raise awareness of marine conservation.

One of the biggest challenges in conservation is how to insure longevity both physically and financially, and to make the biggest impact possible to achieve the objectives of the project given the resources. Therefore, we need to reflect and record our achievements so we can digest and stay focussed on our goals and missions. Cape RADD uses Citizen Science as a way to engage and spread excitement, interest and passion for the marine world to the wider public. This form of Ecotourism also helps to fund an element of some of the monitoring research projects, and is vital for the longevity of our mission.

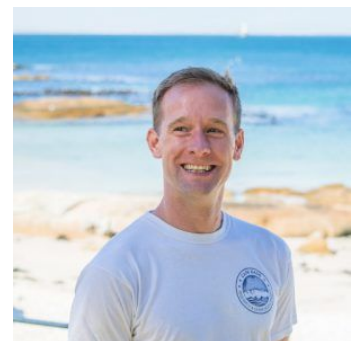
From the conception of Cape RADD, our idea was to create not only a company and a brand synonymous with marine research, conservation and education, but to build a community and engage a broader audience in the knowledge, involvement and respect of the pressing issues of the world's oceans. Ultimately to help marine conservation efforts.

If you have made it this far in, thank you for your support and your passion. We love to communicate with our fellow water people and young ocean enthusiasts. Keep up your amazing commitment and endeavours to make the most of this beautiful world we live in.



Kind Regards,

Mike Barron + Dylan Irion





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“Stop Counting Your Dives And Make Your Dives Count!”





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Ethos and Mission Statement:

As a marine research and education facility Cape RADD aims to better understand marine environments through research objectives using a variety of techniques with a particular focus on measuring biodiversity. We aim to train early career scientists and those with a passion for the ocean in both practical and theoretical practices of marine science.

To utilize citizen science projects as a method of mass data collection, independent funding and wider public outreach for conservation awareness. At the core of our values is engaging the community and getting the public involved and aware of the biodiversity crisis our planet finds itself in.

We aim to provide educational and engaging marine programs and materials for schools, Universities and other learning groups, by involving and collaborating to ultimately expand the reach, impact and awareness of marine science and conservation both locally and globally

“Stop counting your dives and make your dives count!”





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Conservation

Our love and passion for the oceans drives our desire to conserve the underwater environment so that future generations can experience the same wonder that we have discovered.

Research

An intense curiosity for understanding the inner workings of our ecosystem has led us down a path of academia. We study our oceans to better understand how to conserve them.

Adventure

Above all else, we are driven by excitement and thrill. There is no better way to stimulate passion than to fill our days with adventure.



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Numbers at a glance:

Citizen Science participants - 232

Schools visited - 14

Young learners reached
through marine programs
+/- 3,500

Social Media
engagement and
followers
Instagram = 5,340
Facebook = 2,685



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The Cape RADD Citizen Science program:

The Citizen science program is a multipurpose activity which achieves a number of primary objectives as well as secondary benefits. Cape RADD uses the Citizen Science 'snorkel for science' not only as an educational, fun activity for the public but to contribute towards other ongoing marine research projects run by the research facility.

Citizen Science Key Questions and importance of data:

Citizen Science is when non scientists are involved and engaged in collecting data alongside project scientists.

The citizen science program is a lot of fun for everyone, but it also contributes to a bigger picture, a long term scientific database with the aim to monitor the long term fish and shark sightings along the coast of the Cape Peninsula. Data from this project will help inform management decisions and ensure the long term health of our oceans.

The Cape Peninsula has 3 'no take' Marine Protected Areas on the False Bay side which are intended to replenish diversity stocks to the surrounding areas. These areas are crucial for marine conservation and biodiversity health for the bay and the wider marine ecosystem. It is important that these areas and the surrounding areas are monitored and managed to protect the future health of our oceans.

The Cape RADD Citizen Science key questions:

1. Is there a significant change in fish and shark diversity counts amongst sampling sites along the Cape Peninsula. Inside and outside the MPA's?
2. Are the Marine Protected Areas sufficient in their purpose of biodiversity replenishment to the surrounding area?
3. What are the seasonal long term trends in fish and shark diversity along the Cape Peninsula?



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Citizen Science program:

Benefits to the public:

- Learning new knowledge and information
- Meeting new people and engaging with biologists first hand
- Overcoming fears of the water and what is in it
- Swimming with a novel objective
- Building water confidence and awareness

Scientific + Outreach benefits

- Spreading awareness of conservation issues to the public
- Collecting large amounts of species richness data
- A source of funding for ongoing research
- Answering and clarifying misconceptions
- Introduce basic observation skills which can be ongoing

Mental health + Physical benefits:

- Relaxation and escape from daily routine and crowds
- Rewilding, getting out in nature, 'slowing down'
- Sense of achievement and contribution to conservation
- Breathing, reflection and passive observational skills
- Cold Water immersion benefits
- Great exercise (Swimming, breathhold)
- Lots of fun, laughs and smiles



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100%

of our guests want to tell their friends and family about their experience and spread the word and work that Cape RADD are trying to achieve.

This shows a secondary impact of the activity in spreading the word further afield and educating family and friends a little who have not participated in the activity



100%

5 star ratings on Airbnb
Facebook, Tripadvisor and
Google

100%

of our guests report learning new knowledge, appreciation and skills from their experience





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- Citizen Science Reviews -

'A great experience and a perfect way to learn more about Cape Town's rich nature.'

☆☆☆☆☆

'Mike and Dylan gave me an introduction briefing to help us understand a bit of the native marine life before heading to the water. They not only delivered their knowledge, but also the enthusiasm of protecting nature and their passion is palpable..'

☆☆☆☆☆

'The experience with Mike and Dylan felt well thought-out. They were definitely interested in showing me as much as they could...I had a good time and learned a thing or two about the fauna in the kelp forest. Watching the guys free dive was pretty cool too!'

☆☆☆☆☆

'A great experience. Highly recommended. Mike and Dylan are very good leaders'

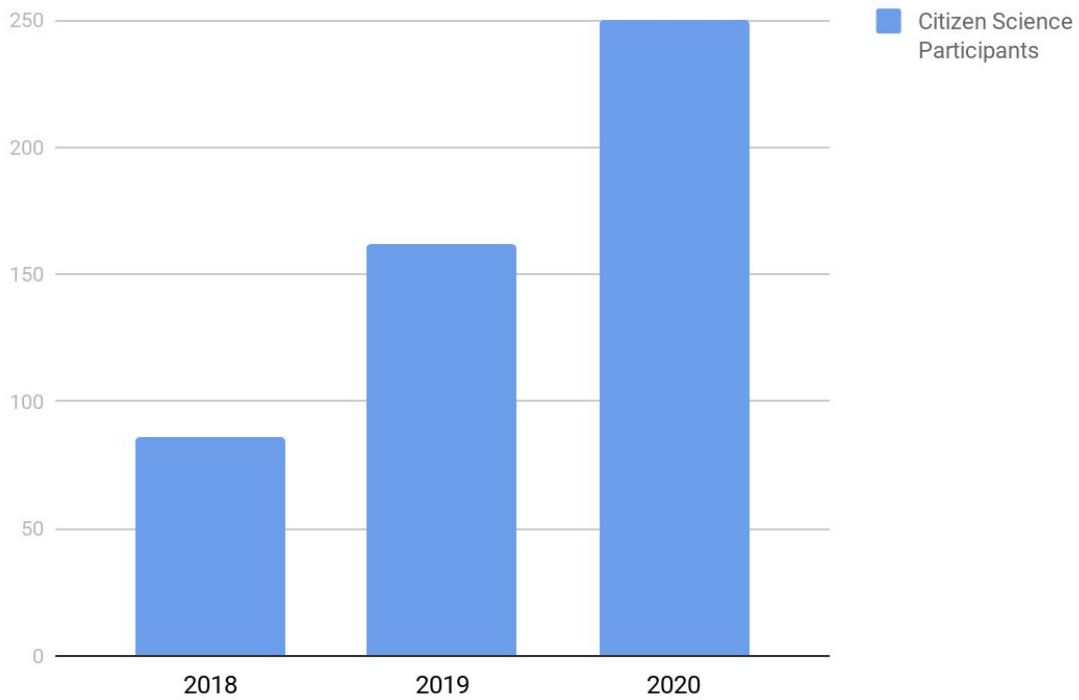
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Citizen Science 'Snorkel for Science' trips (with 2020 predictions)

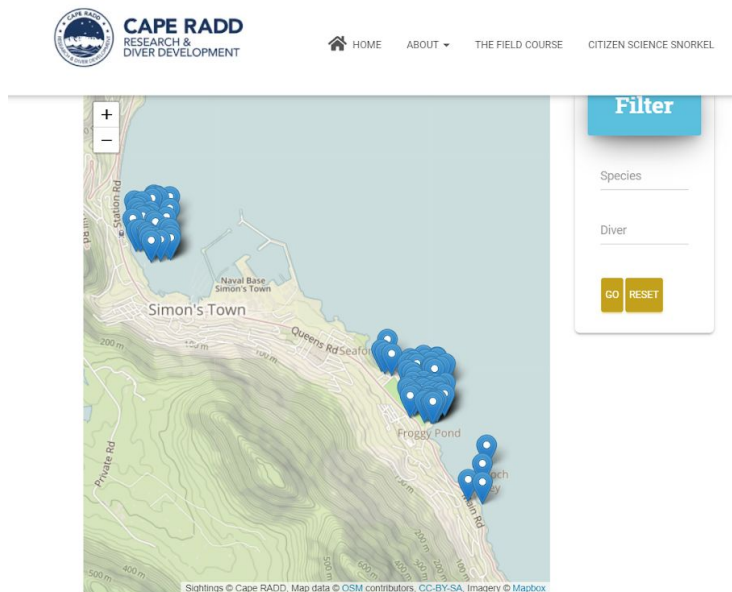
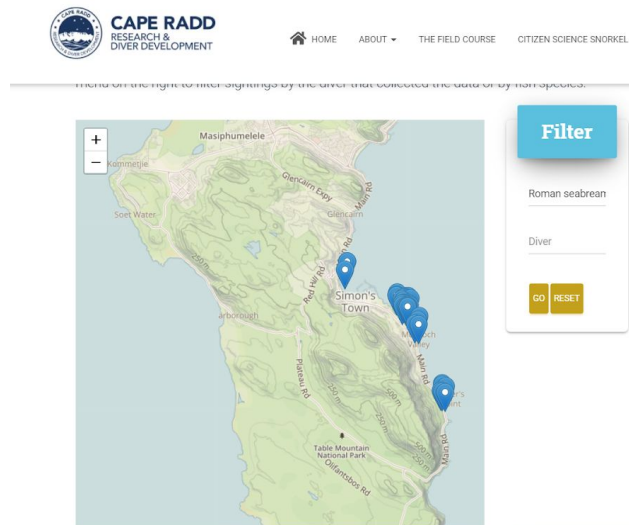




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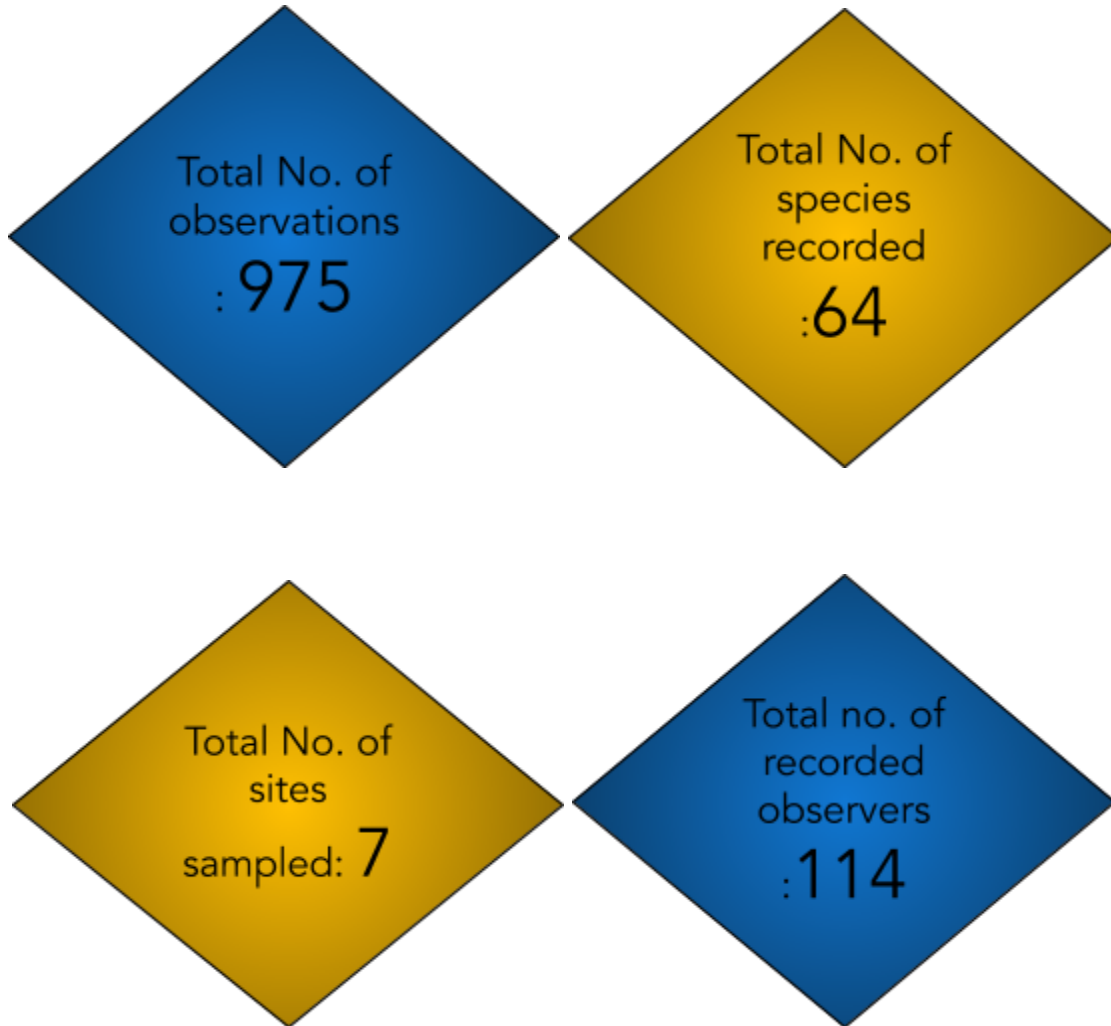
To further engage our guests, we designed an interactive map on our website. The information shown here is shared with several other global fish monitoring campaigns and is freely available for scientific publication. You can use the Fish Map on our website to filter sightings by the diver that collected the data or by fish species. To see your mark in Science!





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The Numbers Behind The Citizens:



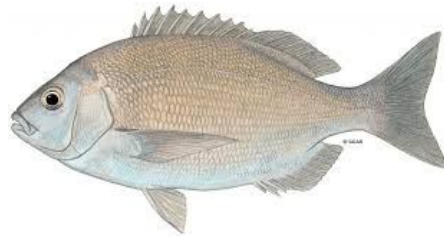


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Top 5 Species observed:

1} Hottentot Seabream (*Pachymetopon blochii*) = 109 observations



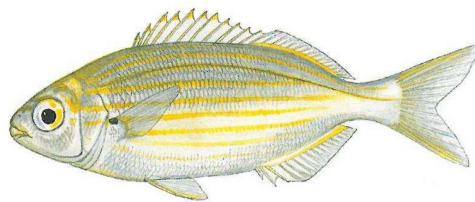
2} Speckled Kilpfish (*Clinus venustris*) = 65 observations



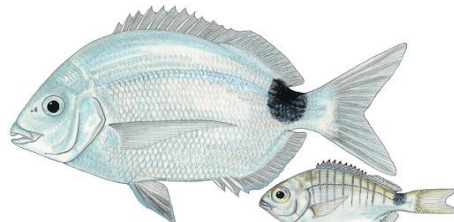
3} Two Tone fingerfin (*Chirodactylus brachydactylus*) = 60 observations



4} Strepie (*Sarpa salpa*) = 58 observations



5} Blacktail (*Diplodus sargus capensis*) = 54 observations





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Sample Sites (sampled):

- 1} Windmill Beach (54)
- 2} Long Beach (37)
- 3} Millers Point (14)
- 4} A-Frame (6)
- 5} Partridge (2)
- 6} Glencairn (2)

Vision for the future:

Cape RADD intends to continue to spread marine conservation awareness and education through citizen science initiatives and community engagement programs.

As we build momentum and our audience and exposure becomes wider and snorkel for science participants increase, the more data we will be able to collect and the more research and outreach projects we will be able to support. We intend to always keep our data portfolio as an open resource for scientists and researchers to use on request for monitoring the health and biodiversity of the Cape peninsula and further afield.

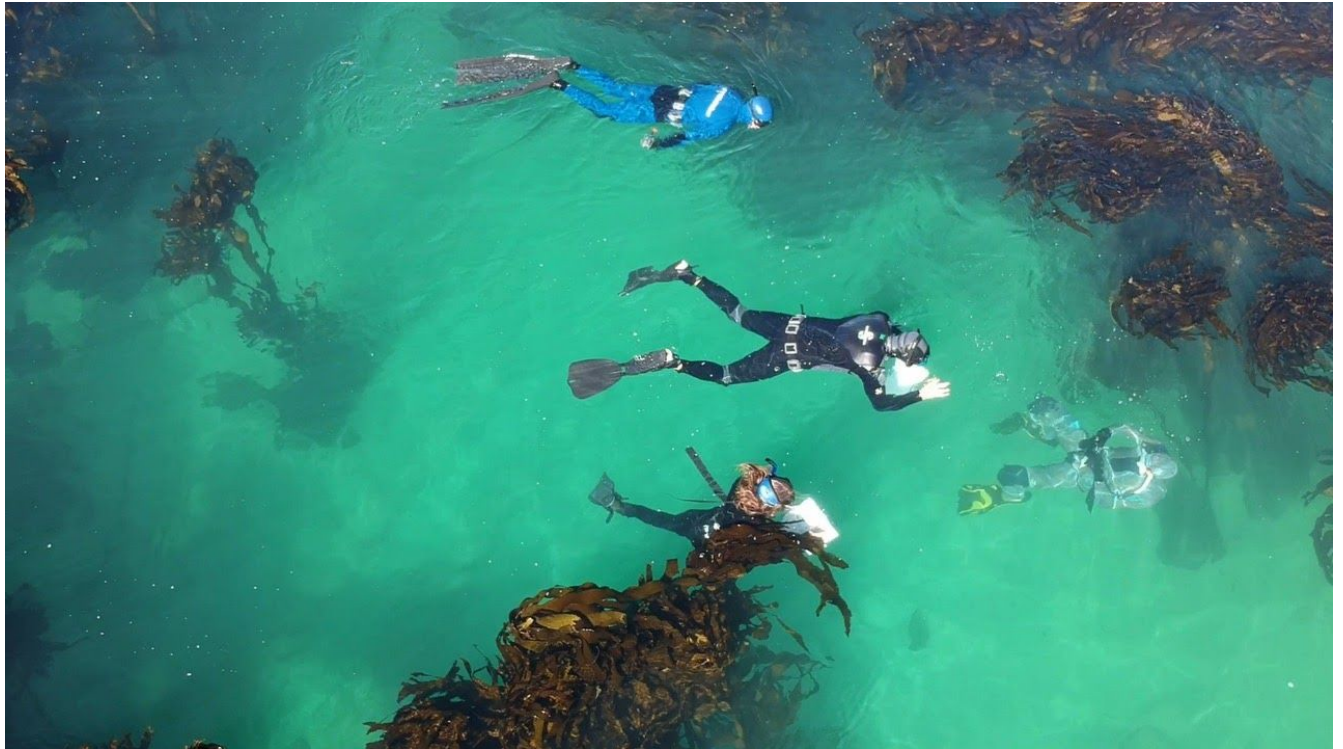
We hope to give this basic training and fun experience to people of all backgrounds and abilities. By standardizing a basic level of training through our Snorkel for science we hope to not only make an enjoyable and informative day out for all, but to encourage continued submission of marine taxa observations by participants to the Cape RADD database as well as other open source citizen science schemes such as INaturalist. We also hope to further expand our services to school learners,



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supplementing curriculums and working with both local and international schools to create out of the classroom hands on experiences in marine conservation and biology.



For further information please get in touch with the Cape RADD team:

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