



# Mobile Citizen Science using the new Aneccdata.org app

Dr. Jane E. Disney and Ashley Taylor  
Maine Water Conference, March 29, 2018

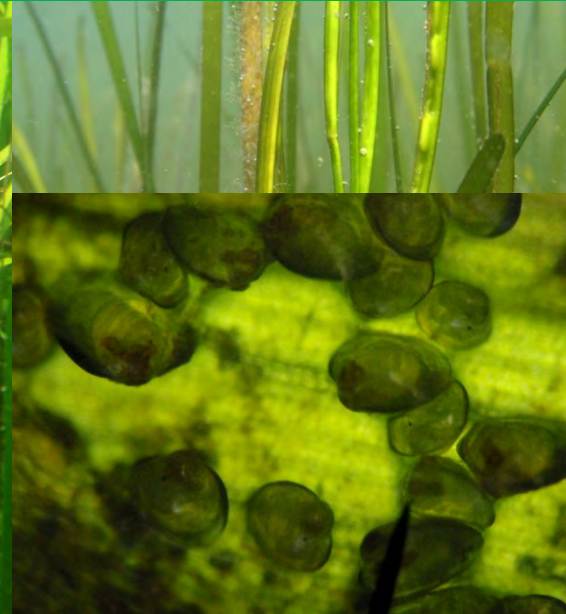
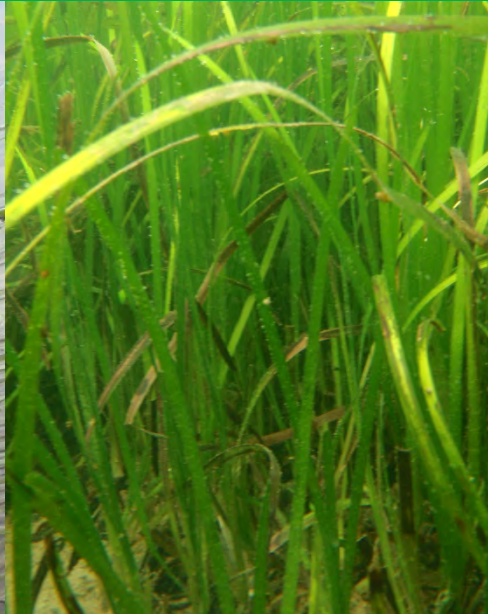
# The Community Lab



# Citizen Science at MDI Biological Laboratory



# Why Eelgrass?



## Eelgrass:

- Provides habitat
- Functions as a nursery
- Filters water
- Absorbs nutrients
- Stabilizes sediments
- Prevents erosion
- Sequesters carbon

# Eelgrass in Frenchman Bay 1996



# Eelgrass in Frenchman Bay 2008





# Anecddata

Next-gen citizen science

[Sign up now!](#)



 65 projects

 10649 observations

 2507 photos

## Citizen science just got easier.



It's free

Anyone can create a project on Anecddata and get started crowdsourcing environmental data.



There's an app!

Use the free app to report (or manage your project!) from the field!



Know your participants

Want to know who your top participants are? Just check your project member list.



It's versatile

Collect reports ranging from bird censuses to water quality to beach sweeps.

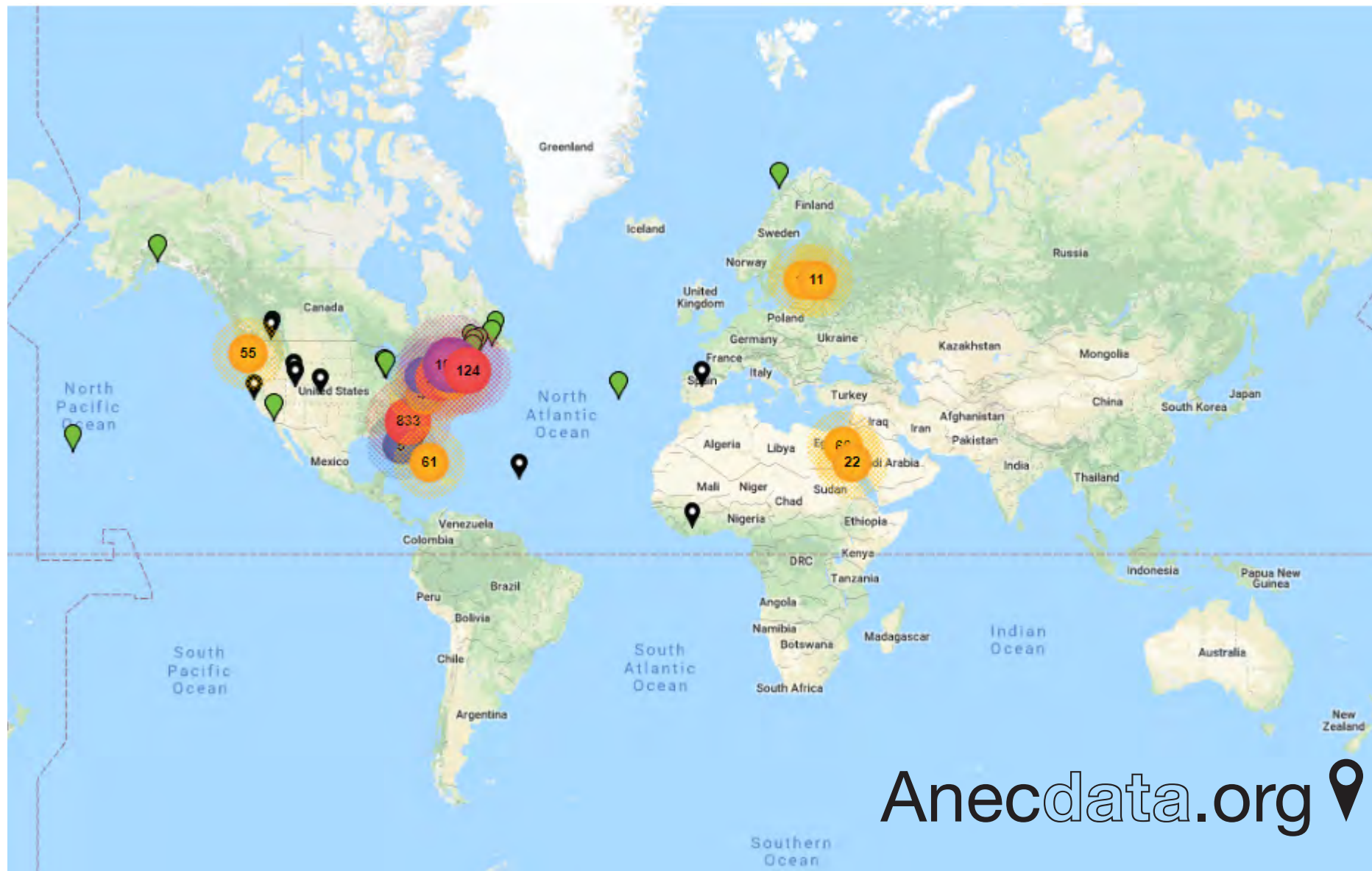


Showcase your data

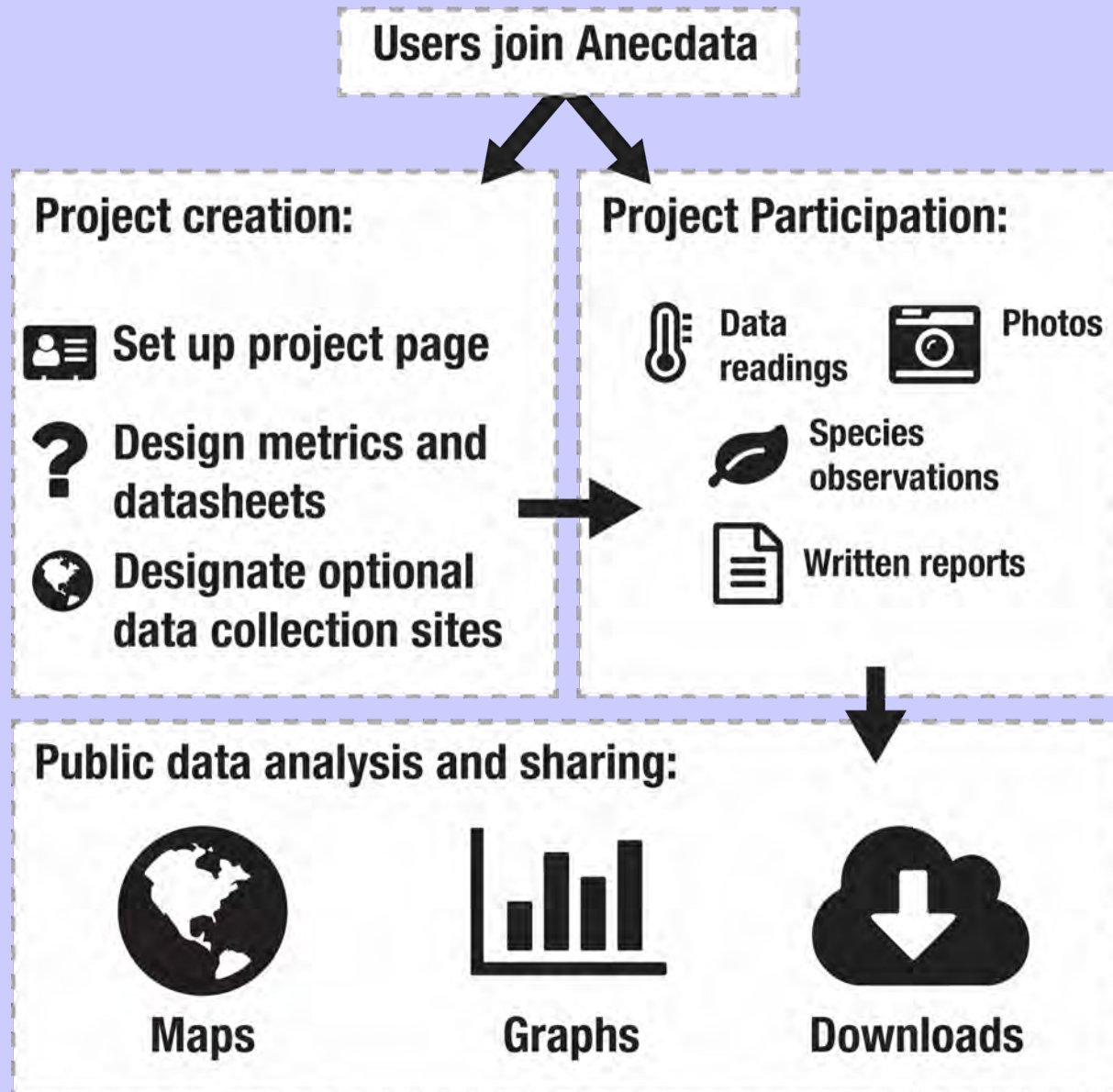
Beautiful project pages let participants find out what to do and where to go, check out recent photos, or explore and download data.



# Where are we now?



# Aneccdata.org: How it works



# Project Creation: Project Pages

**Eastern Meadowlark Survey**  
 Mass Audubon - Bird Conservation Department and Mass Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
 Anyone can contribute | Started April 2017 | 64 members | 541 observations | 52 photos

Eastern Meadowlarks are in serious decline in the state of Massachusetts (and elsewhere in North America), largely as a result of intensive farming activities that destroy active nests or eliminate suitable habitat. This survey will provide information on the species' current distribution in Massachusetts, and form the basis for a better assessment of habitat requirements and future conservation.

Use the app! Anecdota.org iOS

Project leads: Jon Atwood

This project aims to collect presence-absence data obtained during repeated visits to randomly selected sites distributed throughout the state of Massachusetts. Participants are requested to take responsibility for surveying specific points, then to visit each of these points on 3 dates within the period May 15 - June 15. Preferably, these dates should be separated by at least 3 days. Observations will

**Maine Harbor Seals - Kennebunkport 1980-88**  
 Gale McCullough  
 Members-only | Started June 2016 | 3 members | 357 observations | 142 photos

Observations of a low tide haul out ledge from 1980-1988, with focus on individual identification, life histories and site loyalty. These observations were completed by 1988. It is not an ongoing project, rather an effort to enter data where it can be useful.

Use the app! Anecdota.org iOS

Project leads: Gale McCullough

Eastern Meadowlark Survey, MA

**Eco-Schools Bahamas: Shopping Bag Challenge**  
 Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF)  
 Members-only | Started December 2016 | 7 members | 12 observations | 5 photos

Plastics are now part of everyday life. Toothbrushes, credit cards, phones, toys, machine parts and packaging are all made of plastic. However, a third the plastic we use is purposely designed to be disposable, i.e. used only once and then thrown away. In The Bahamas, recycling is very limited, most plastics are disposed in landfills, where they take a very long time to decompose, pollute the soil.

Use the app! Anecdota.org iOS

Project leads: BREEF Eco-Schools Bahamas

Action is needed on a range of scales to address the degradation of Earth's oceans and shorelines by plastic debris. Therefore, the Eco-Schools Bahamas Citizen Science Project launched by the Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF) has engaged students in The Bahamas to collect data that will be used to address this issue. Let's band together to ditch single-use-plastic!

For the first stage of the challenge, students will count the numbers of plastic bags that their families use over a four week period and record their data. They will then receive reusable shopping bags and encourage their families to shop with them, counting and recording the number of plastic bags that they use for another four weeks. Students will compare the data and provide feedback that will help to identify what we can do to promote widespread reusable bag use.

Participating schools will collect the following data with teams of 30 students.

**Deadlines** - Data for Stage 1 should be recorded by **February 10, 2017** and data for Stage 2 by **March 31st, 2017**.


Stage 1 Data

Eco-Schools Bahamas: Shopping Bag Challenge, Bahamas

Maine Harbor Seals, ME

# Project Creation: Datasheets

Pick a location for this observation:



Hotspot: **Berry Cove**

**Eelgrass Density Sample**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quadrat Throw	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # of Flowers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # of Shoots
<input type="text" value="number"/>	<input type="text" value="number"/>	<input type="text" value="number"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> % Cover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Height 1 (cm)
<input type="text" value="..."/> %	<input type="text" value="Choose an option"/>	<input type="text" value="number"/> (cm)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Height 2 (cm)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Height 3 (cm)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Height Average
<input type="text" value="number"/>	<input type="text" value="number"/>	<input type="text" value="number"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observer name	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Name	<input type="button" value="+ Add another data field..."/>
<input type="text" value="..."/>	<input type="text" value="Choose an option"/>	

Further notes and observations

Maine Eelgrass Density, ME

Observation time:

Date & Time ("2017-12-04T19:01:48.000Z")

Species Observation

: *Unknown species* [Change species](#)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dive center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reef / Dive Site Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Depth (meters)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temperature (Water)
<input type="text" value="m"/>	<input type="text" value="°C"/>

Allow multiple entries

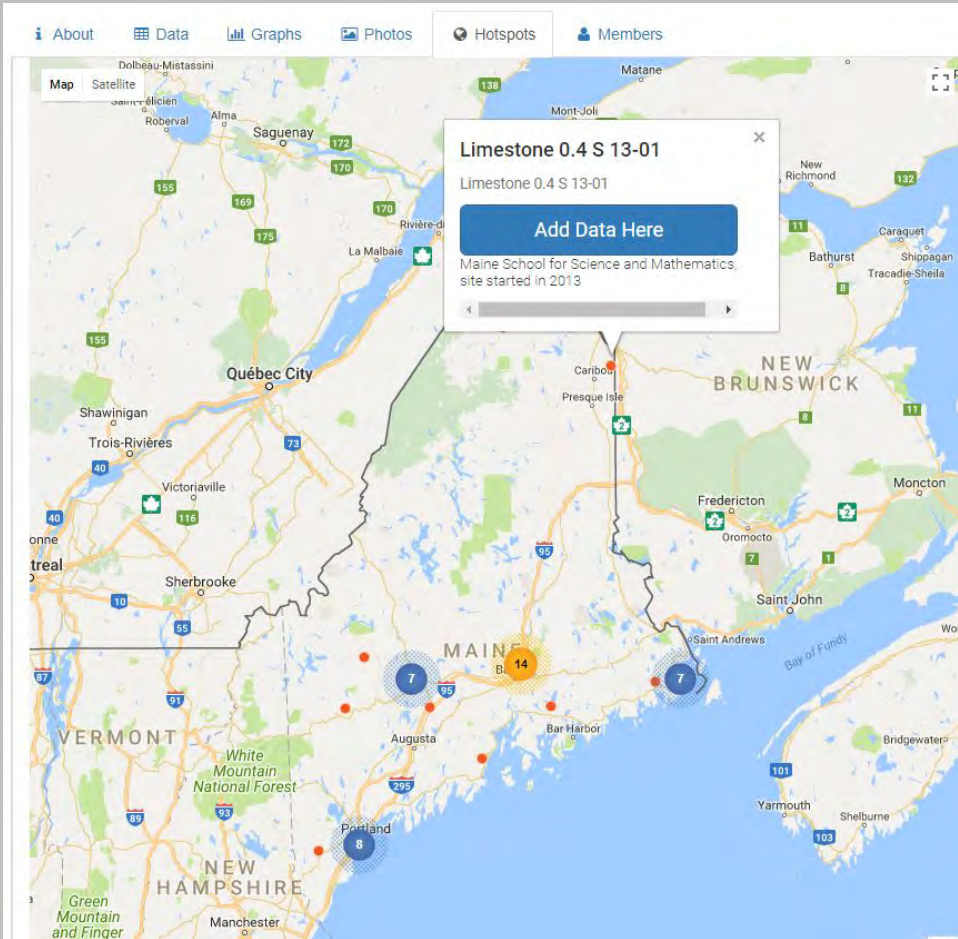
Species Observation

: *Unknown species* [Change species](#)

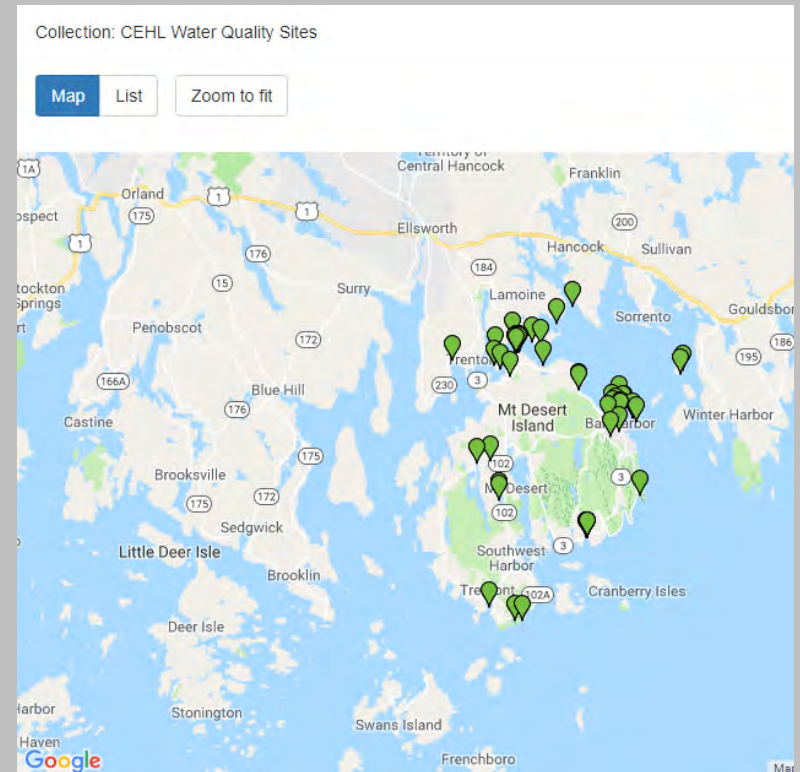
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Species ID	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ID sure?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated carapace length	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TW_sex
<input type="text" value="Select a value"/>	<input type="text" value="Select a value"/>	<input type="text" value="cm"/>	<input type="text" value="Select a value"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TW_Behavior	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Did you take a picture?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographer name	
<input type="text" value="Select a value"/>	<input type="text" value="Select a value"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Turtle Name		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		

Turtle Watch, Egypt

# Project Creation: Hotspots





Acadia Learning Snowpack Project, ME





Green Crab Studies, ME

# Project Participation: Collect & Report


Posted by  ataylor7


Sighted  Jun 13, 2017




Posted on  Jun 16, 2017


Project:  Jordan River Monitoring Project

Hotspot: JR09.0

Location:  44.489078, -68.348204  
Bar Harbor Golf Course, Lamoine, Hancock County, Maine, United States

 Map Satellite

 Edit  Delete  Be the first to favorite this!



Water Temperature (°C) 24.4C

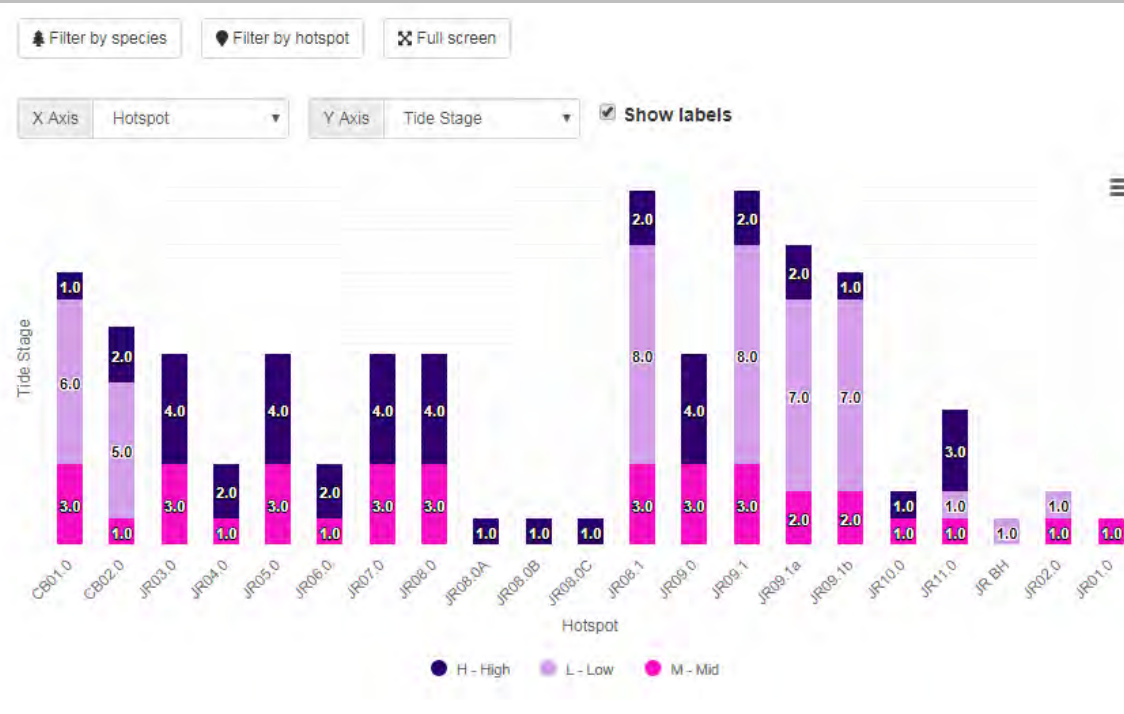
Air Temperature (°C) 30.1

24 Hr. Rain None

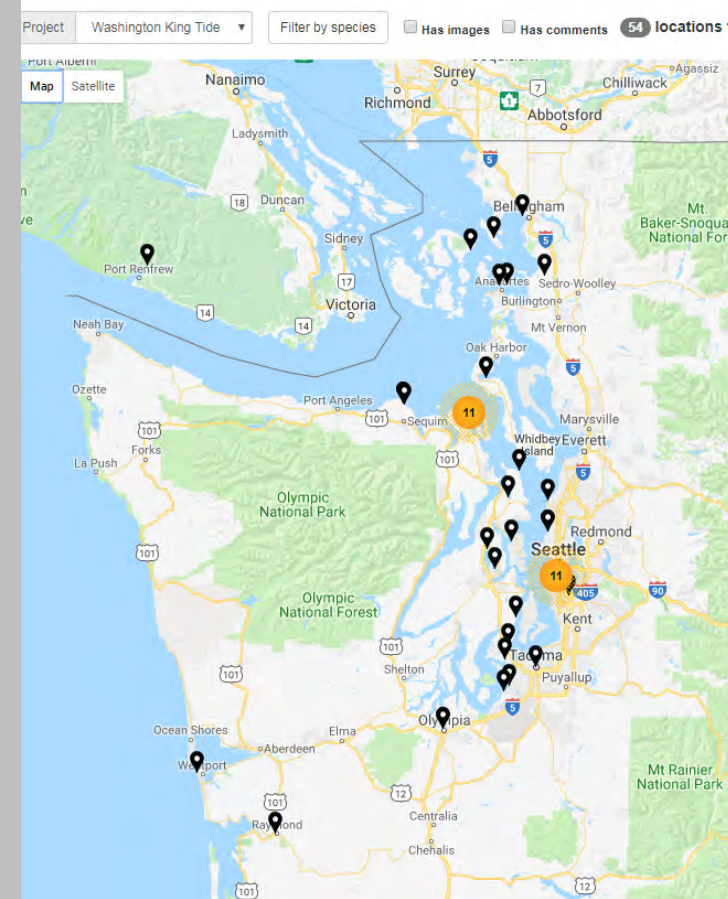
Inches of Rain 0in

Weather Partly Cloudy

# Public Data Analysis & Sharing

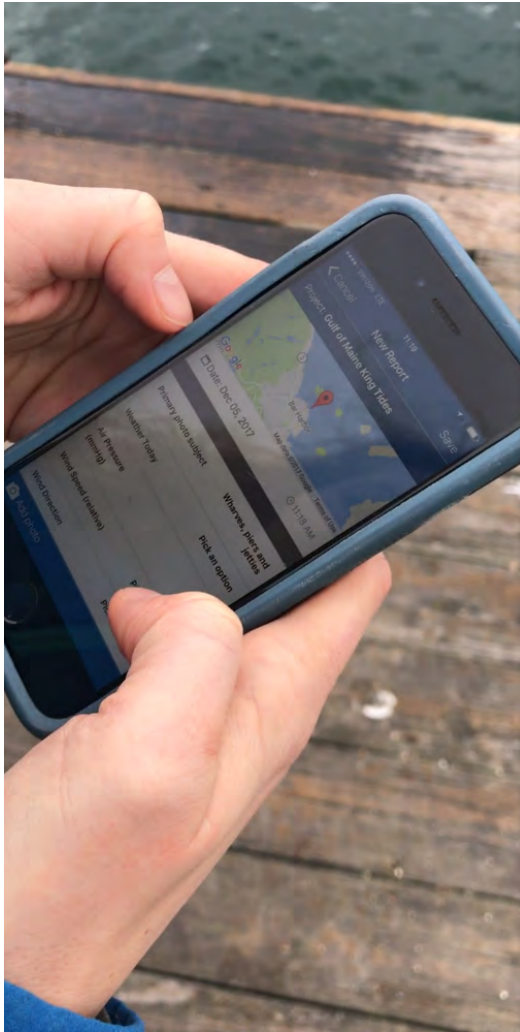


Jordan River Monitoring Project, ME



Washington King Tides, WA

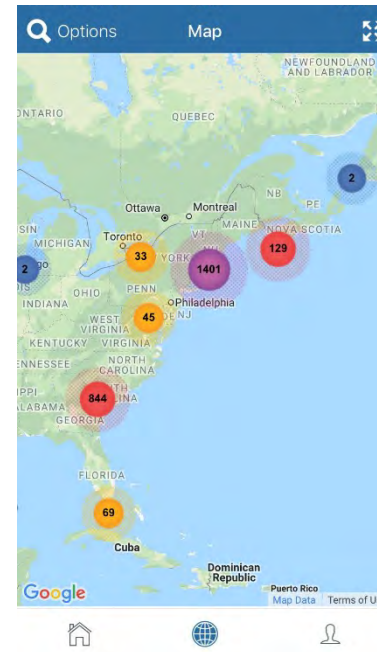
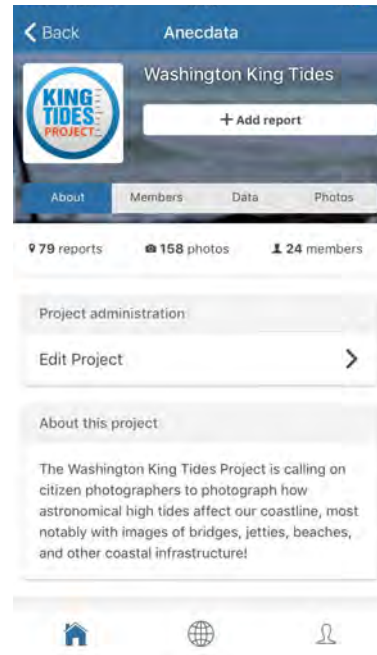
# Aneccdata.org: Mobile App



**Aneccdata.org** 4+  
Next-gen citizen science  
MDI Biological Laboratory

Free

Screenshots [iPhone](#) [iPad](#)





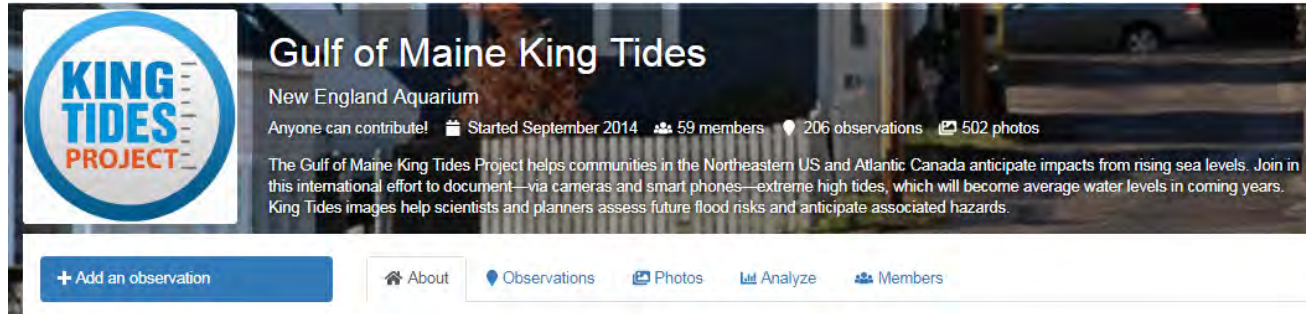
# Aneccdata.org: Mobile App Launch




**Aneccdata** 

## App Features

-  Join an existing project or create your own.
-  Develop custom data sheets.
-  Upload images directly to your project.
-  Browse, map, and comment on observations.
-  Like what other people are posting.
-  Push notifications keep you up-to-date when there's activity in your projects.



 **Gulf of Maine King Tides**  
New England Aquarium  
Anyone can contribute! 📅 Started September 2014 👤 59 members 📍 206 observations 📷 502 photos

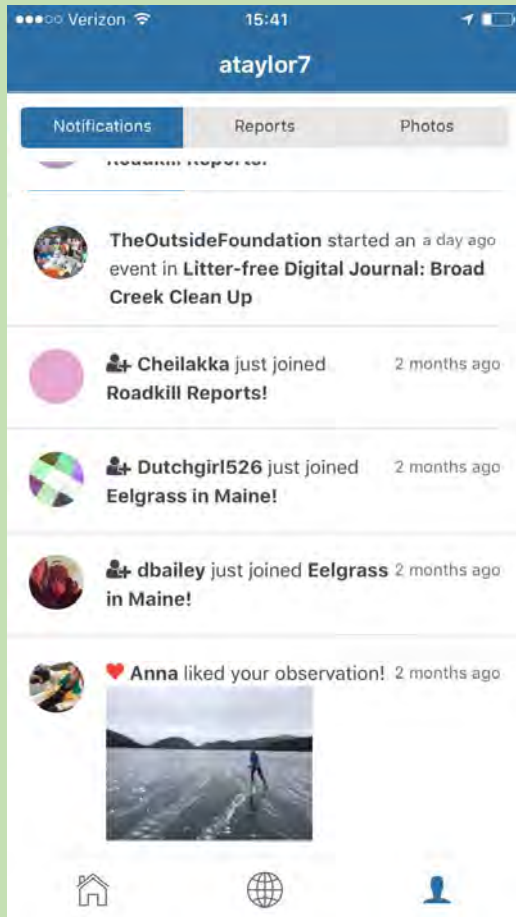
The Gulf of Maine King Tides Project helps communities in the Northeastern US and Atlantic Canada anticipate impacts from rising sea levels. Join in this international effort to document—via cameras and smart phones—extreme high tides, which will become average water levels in coming years. King Tides images help scientists and planners assess future flood risks and anticipate associated hazards.

[+ Add an observation](#) | [About](#) | [Observations](#) | [Photos](#) | [Analyze](#) | [Members](#)



# Community Engagement Tools

## Personal



## Project

added by **TheOutsideFoundation** on Mar 25, 2018  
Project: **Litter-free Digital Journal**

Google Coligny Beach Park

**Notes:**

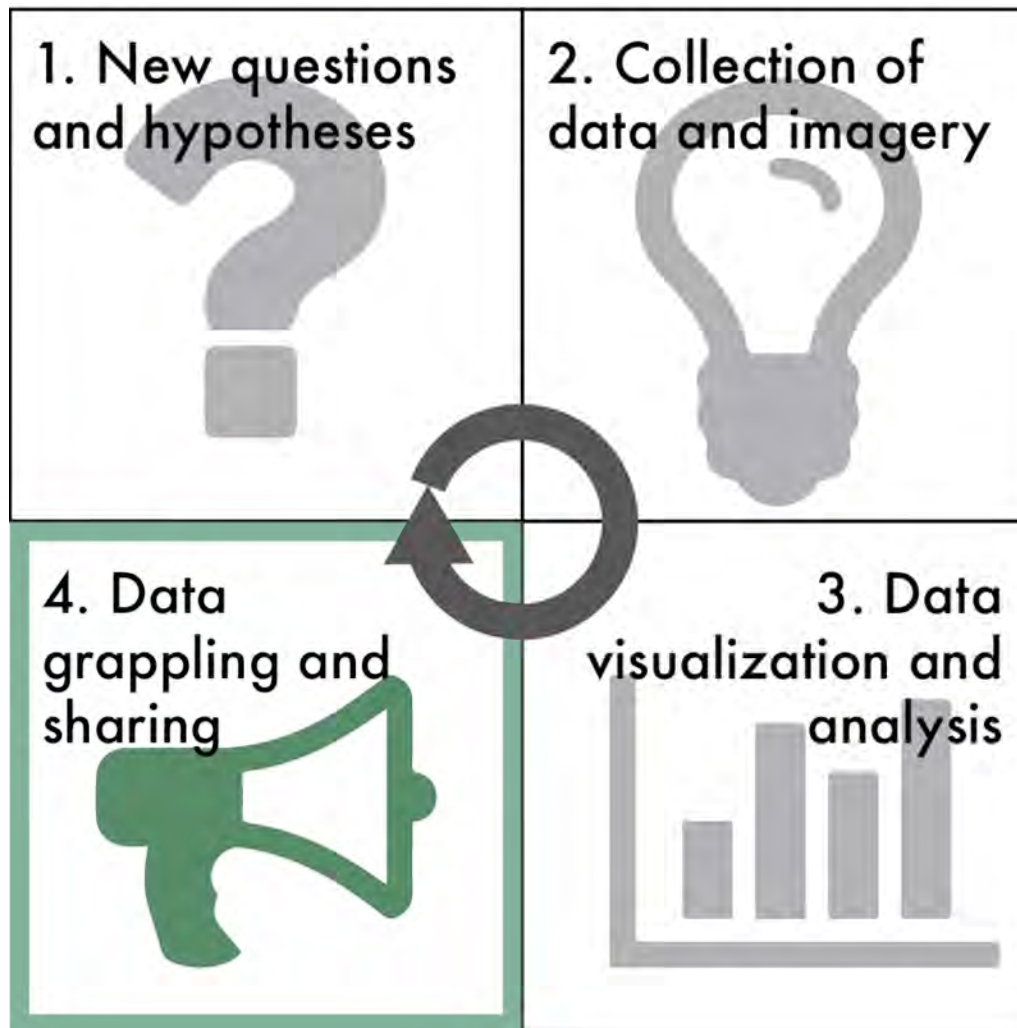
31 Volunteers in 4 hours also recovered a large plastic tarp, 2 5 gal buckets, 2 large cylinders (plastic), a plastic owl, crab trap and a long pvc pipe

	Count	Debris Type	Comment
Debris	3	Glass Bottles + Fragments	
Debris	17	Cigarettes + Filters	
Debris	15	Plastic Bags	
Debris	27	Plastic Food Wrappers + Film	
Debris	1	Toys	
Debris	7	Straws + Stirrers	
Debris	4	Plastic Caps + Lids	
Debris	5	Plastic Bottles	
Debris	4	Utensils & Dinnerware (spoons, cups, plates, etc.)	
Debris	34	Plastic Fragments (rigid)	
Debris	5	Building Materials	
Debris	6	Beverage Cans (aluminum)	
Debris	1	Food cans (tin + steel)	
Debris	2	Fishing Line	
Debris	15	Paper + Cardboard	
Debris	7	Styrofoam	
Debris	2	Clothing, Shoes + Fabric	
Debris	3	Rubber (hard + foam)	

Liked by  
 Christi Hughes  
 dbailey  
 ForrestLabAlum

Comments 1  
 Christi Hughes Mar 26, 2018 10:18AM  
 Love all the Palmetto Pride bags! Thanks for such a worthwhile effort, team. It looks like your crew had a lot of fun!  
[Add a comment...](#)

# Closing the Citizen Science Data Loop





# Litter-free Digital Journal

South Carolina Aquarium

Anyone can contribute! 📅 Started January 2016 👤 230 members 📍 970 observations 📷 1194 photos

The South Carolina Aquarium encourages citizens to track and remove plastics and other debris from both land and water throughout our beautiful state. Collectively, these efforts improve human health, promote habitat conservation and save wildlife.



Anecdata is used in South Carolina to manage data on marine debris to lobby for

- Plastic and Styrofoam bans
- Sea Turtle Protection



[Anecdata.org](http://Anecdata.org) 📍

MDI Biological Laboratory

# Knowledge to Action

## Knowledge

Folly Beach	14	Metal Cans
Folly Beach	2	Balloons
Folly Beach	5	Clothing, Shoes + Fabric
Folly Beach	15	Utensils & Dinnerware (spoons, cups, p
Folly Beach	4	Fireworks
Folly Beach	104	Plastic Food Containers
Folly Beach	5	Metal Pull Tabs
Folly Beach	1	Six-pack rings
Folly Beach	10	Shotgun Shells + Wadding
Folly Beach	44	Straws + Stirrers
Folly Beach	15	Toys
Folly Beach	185	Plastic Caps + Lids
Folly Beach	16	Plastic Bags
Folly Beach	235	Cigarettes + Filters
Folly Beach	7	Cigarette Lighters
Folly Beach	11	Cigars + Cigar Tips

## Folly Beach passes ban on plastic bags, balloons, Styrofoam

Published: Tuesday, October 18th 2016, 11:31 pm EDT  
Updated: Tuesday, October 18th 2016, 11:37 pm EDT

By Patrick Phillips, Digital Content Manager CONNECT

VIDEO: Folly Beach passes ban on plastic bags, balloons

Help us save the environment, let us know if you don't need a bag

NEW TONIGHT

FOLLY BEACH PASSES PLASTIC BAG BAN

00:11 / 00:28

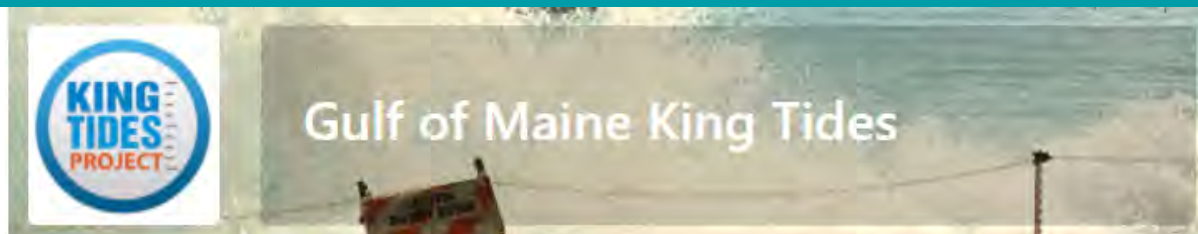
CC

## Action

# Plastic Bag Ban: Folly Beach, South Carolina



# What's next for Aneccdata?



Welcome to Gulf of Maine King Tides! By participating in this project, you can help raise awareness around shoreline flooding.

## Share your observations

Ready to upload your King Tides observations? Share your photos right now!

[+ Get started](#)

## Browse reports

Take a quick tour through recent King Tides photos on an interactive map.

[Explore the map](#)

## King Tides Community

Learn more about King Tides, meet participants near you, and learn about upcoming events!

[Join the discussion](#)

[Upcoming events](#)

[? King Tides helpdesk](#)

## Civic Action Toolkit

Learn how to get civically engaged and share your activities and outcomes!

[Civic Action Tracker](#)

[Resource Center](#)

# Questions?

# Aneccdata ™

Next-gen citizen science



Get in touch with the Aneccdata team: [aneccdata@mdibl.org](mailto:aneccdata@mdibl.org)



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