

## MARINE QUEST: Environmental E-Learning for Primary Students

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The New Zealand Marine Studies Centre (NZMSC) offers educational programmes to schools. The NZMSC programmes give students the opportunity to learn about Southern New Zealand marine species and the ecosystems in which they are found.

The NZMSC wanted a piece of technology that turned existing paper-based resources into an interactive e-learning CD for students to use. The end result, Marine Quest, combines fun activities with science and technology via six animated games. NZMSC received great feedback about Marine Quest and has distributed the CD to schools throughout the region.

### Problem

School children visit the New Zealand Marine Studies Centre for hands-on learning experiences, but often have trouble retaining the knowledge once they go back to school. The majority of existing learning materials used by NZMSC are paper-based.

### Solution

The Marine-Quest CD was designed to benefit the NZMSC by providing school teachers with a learning aid to help reinforce children's learning. It offers children and teachers the opportunity to interact with modern technology and educational resources.

Project objectives included:

- Developing a curriculum-relevant interactive CD
- Researching and assessing existing learning materials
- Researching and assessing appropriate children's software

- Identifying the learning styles of primary school children
- Enhancing the aquarium learning experience via software usage
- Giving primary school children the opportunity to interact with modern technology
- Providing a resource for school teachers
- Enhancing the image of the NZMSC as a leader in public marine education



*"It is a fantastic addition to our marine education programme... I never anticipated we would end up with such a professional product."* **Sally Carlson, Programme Director, NZMSC**

To ensure the games were robust and user friendly, they were thoroughly tested with children. The children were very enthusiastic about the games. The games package was handed over to the client as a complete package for deployment by the NZMSC in November 2006.