

Teaching Marine Species Identification Using Web Based Learning Modules

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Abstract: Correctly identifying and spelling the genus and species of over 250 marine species found in Hawai'i's coral reefs is necessary for undergraduates interested in marine science education and research. Historically, students have attended a series of workshops or independently studied on their own with minimal guidance. This often leaves out students not in the UH system, from out of state, or those who have time conflicts. Students often find themselves intimidated by the copious amount of course material to study. Research shows that web based learning modules "chunked" into smaller manageable sections, allows students to learn at their own pace to be a more practical approach. The purpose of this instructional design project was to develop a website to support students learning to identify Hawai'i's reef species. Instructional and testing modules were developed as well for University students required to pass an identification exam with a score greater the 80% for acceptance into the Quantitative Underwater Ecological Surveying Techniques (QUEST) field school.