At our site on Thursday Island, Back Beach, seven species of seagrass were identified. Halodule uninervis was most abundant, followed by Thalassia hemprichii, Enhalus acoroides and Cymodocea rotundata recorded similar moderate abundances with Syringodium isoetifolium, Cymodocea serrulata and Halophila ovalis in the minority.

Initial classroom training involves talks on seagrass ecology, species identification and standardized Seagrass-Watch monitoring techniques before going out to the reef-flats to monitor the seagrass.

Within the seagrass meadow a monitoring site is established. Within this site we identify the seagrass species present and estimate seagrass % cover and composition.

Animals are commonly observed amongst the seagrass. The identification and recording of these animals will increase knowledge of the different types of animals that use and live in these tropical seagrass meadows.

Through active, co-operative participation by students and the community Seagrass-Watch in partnership with Clean Beach Days will raise awareness of the detrimental effect of land-based rubbish on near-shore habitats and marine fauna.

By sorting and identifying the types of rubbish collected and extracting the recyclables the community will become more aware of responsible waste disposal and management.

Information collected on seagrasses will provide knowledge about Torres Strait coastal habitats and may contribute to more informed management.