Sensational Seagrass

Seagrass are flowering plants that live in the sea.

There are many different kinds of seagrasses and some do not look like grass at all. Some of the shapes and sizes of leaves of different species of seagrass include an oval shape, a fern shape, a long spaghetti like leaf and a ribbon shape.

Can you identify the three seagrass below from the following list?

**HU (Halodule uninervis)**
- leaves ribbon shaped
- leaf tip has three points
- leaf edges smooth

**HO (Halophila ovalis)**
- oval shaped leaves in pairs
- leaf edges smooth

**HS (Halophila spinulosa)**
- oblong leaves
- looks like a fern
- leaf edges jagged

Species A = ..................
Species B = ..................
Species C = ...............
Seagrass is important because it provides food and shelter for lots of animals. Within seagrass meadows, you can find animals such as prawns, crabs, starfish, marine slugs and sea horses.
Animal word find

Many animals hide within seagrass meadows. They hide from predators like sharks, large fish and crocodiles.

Can you find the hidden animal names in the puzzle below? Animal names can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal. **Tick off the animals when you have found them:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>clam</th>
<th>crab</th>
<th>dugong</th>
<th>fish</th>
<th>lobster</th>
<th>octopus</th>
<th>oyster</th>
<th>prawn</th>
<th>scallop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sea horse</td>
<td>sea turtle</td>
<td>sea urchin</td>
<td>shrimp</td>
<td>snail</td>
<td>squid</td>
<td>starfish</td>
<td>stingray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

```
E L I A N S N R X H
S L O C T O P U S S
R E T S B O L I H T
O N B R B D F W R I
H S E A U R C H I N
A E R G A T G R M G
E C O T N W A R P R
S N S O Y S T E R A
G A P O L L A C S Y
B D I U Q S M A L C
```
Fisheries Scramble

Seagrass meadows are important because juveniles of fish and prawns which we eat, use them as nursery areas before entering the open ocean.

Each scrambled word in the puzzle below matches the name of animal which people eat and depends on seagrass. Tick off the animals from the list when you unscramble them. Take the letters that appear in boxes and unscramble them for the final word.

- oysters
- sweetlip
- perch
- prawn
- tailor
- bream
- flathead
- snapper
- mullet
- pearl
- whiting
- lobsters

HPCER
LEMLUT
HINTIGW
TORLAI
RABEM
DEFHATLA
NRPEAPS
ELETWPIS
PAWRN
SORTSBEL
SOTEYR
LEARP

final word =
The dugong is a marine mammal which eats seagrass. Dugongs eat the parts of seagrass plants which are buried in the mud or sand. These plant parts are called rhizomes and roots.

Help this dugong calf find its mother
Seagrass Tidal Search

When the tide goes out, little pools of water are often left behind. Sometimes, small plants and animals get left behind too. Occasionally animals like dugongs can be stranded when the tide drops quickly. How many dugongs can you find hidden in this picture?
Sea Turtle Colour-in

Green sea turtles are marine reptiles which mainly eat seagrass. Turtles eat the leaves of seagrasses. They like to eat seagrasses with strap-like leaves.
Sensitive Seagrass

Seagrass meadows are very fragile. That means they can be easily damaged. People can damage or destroy seagrass in many ways. Can you work out some of the ways people can damage seagrasses?

Across
1. Farmers can ___ the water if they are not careful and their soil (mud) washes down creeks to the sea

2. Sometimes it is spilled from ships and can smother seagrass

3. Propellers on s__d boats cut into seagrass meadows

5. These can dig into seagrass when used to hold a boat in place

7. An activity people do when looking for bait worms or clams?

Down
1. People like to build these on the coast in areas which are sheltered and seagrass like to grow.

4. When making a boat channel, this activity can make the water muddy and dump sediment on seagrass

6. When people do not dispose of this properly, it can wash into the sea
Seagrass Monitoring: Spot the difference

We can see if seagrass meadows are healthy by watching them over time – this is called monitoring.

How observant are you? Can you spot the ten things different between the two pictures below?
Instructions
Cut out this mask and cut out eye slots. Let your imagination go wild by colouring and decorating. Glue this mask design to the base mask on page 15 and have lots of fun.

Mask artwork courtesy Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Instructions
Cut out this mask and cut out eye slots. Let your imagination go wild by colouring and decorating. Glue this mask design to the base mask on page 15 and have lots of fun.

Mask artwork courtesy Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Make a Green Turtle Mask

Instructions
Cut out this mask and cut out eye slots. Let your imagination go wild by colouring and decorating. Glue this mask design to the base mask on page 15 and have lots of fun.

Mask artwork courtesy Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Make a Fish Mask

Instructions
Cut out this mask and cut out eye slots. Let your imagination go wild by colouring and decorating. Glue this mask design to the base mask on page 15 and have lots of fun.

Mask artwork courtesy Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Instructions
Cut out this base mask and then cut out eye slots. Use the mask designs on the previous pages and stick them to your base mask. Why not laminate the finished mask? Add hat elastic to secure the finished mask.

Mask artwork courtesy Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Solutions

**Sensational Seagrass:** species A = HS, species B = HU, species C = HO

**Fisheries Scramble:**

```
ELIANSNRXH
SLQCTOPUSJS
RETSBOLITH
ONBRDFWRI
HSEARACHING
AERTGRMG
ECOTNWRPR
ONSOYSTERA
GAPOLLACSY
```

**Tide Pool Search:** 18

**Sensitive Seagrass:**

```
MUDY
AR
OIL
SPEED
NANCHOR
E
U
B
DIGGING
S
G
```

**Spot the difference:** Flying bird missing, tape measure shorter, magnifier missing, ladies pencil shorter, pocket missing from man's shorts, island in background smaller, man's drink bottle missing, ladies watch missing, no glasses on the sun, black stripe missing from man's shirt.

For more information, visit www.seagrasswatch.org