The following is feedback from participants who attended the workshop for monitoring seagrass habitats in the Moreton Bay region (Queensland), held at the QPWS Moreton Bay Manly Office, 34 Trafalgar Street, Manly, 17-18 August 2013.

I found the Seagrass-Watch training to be.....

informative and interesting
very informative
interesting, helpful
interesting and informative
informative, well organised educating
very informative, engaging and extremely worthwhile
well paced, appropriate, clear and interesting
interesting and very well presented. Good atmosphere
thorough
thorough, informative
very useful and very knowledgeable
a useful tool in formalising the actual monitoring process while providing useful info about our marine environment
interesting fascinating-wonderful. Have learnt much
very entertaining and enjoyable
very informative
most informative
useful
interesting
very informative. Well run
thorough, informative, educational, interesting, valuable
very educational and informative and practical
very interesting and informing
volunteer or supporter as I realised that the importance of seagrasses in

What I enjoyed most about the training was.....

field training because I’ve got a confidence to identify species that I was taught in the classroom

doing the practical work

it was very well delivered. No time wasting - time very well spent and used
Day 1 - seagrass biology and ecology. The breaks with quizzes is a great way to keep interest up.

Lunch (Ha ha - Jokes). I enjoyed the practical training (although I was sinking) that it was split up between activities and PowerPoint. Also that it was over 2 days updating info from informal discussion.

information given provided (oral, printed matter) the way pictures were used to explain how, that section of the training was delivered.

the engagement with all participants the competency, well informed training. Group participation

‘informal’ training process to formalise this important data gathering exercise learning new things and working in a team environment

Ecology, Case studies, reasoning behind monitoring and methodology well presented informative kept moving along

detailed identification tutorials

hands on the practical/hands-on practice with support/advice available

that the presenter was knowledgeable in the subject and could convey this knowledge with confidence and clarity

clarity from the classroom presentations and experience from field work seeing different sites and species. Learning seagrass biology

the quality of information

Scientific background and discussions in classroom

**It could have been better if.....**

pretty good

more cultural focus on the importance of traditional owner hunting food on their land

had been GPS introduction (Seagrass-Watch HQ comment: GPS training is one of the modules in Level 2)

Not sure. I think it was good and can’t fault it

More site specific examples to the region being presented

the workshop was a bit more condensed or there was more than 1 workshop i.e. one for indepth theory and one for basic theory/prac

I had more field training programs

we discussed ways we could actively lobby on behalf of seagrasses to aid their conservation, discussions on some of the critter types we found today

methodology discussion reflected what is happening in Moreton Bay

we had a few more practical sessions

NA. It was awesome!

read notes prior to session

more sites with more diverse seagrass types. But obviously its not practical

it was great!
**I did not realise (that).....**

dugongs and turtles ate so much
the habitats in waters are in sea bed and animals around seagrasses
the monitoring process was so involved as far as no. of steps
dugongs ate rhizomes as well as leaves
SGW is such a great program
Seagrass-Watch was so widespread internationally
specific: crustal uplift; peat-build over yrs
seagrass played such as great role in the marine environment
there is reliance on the work to provide backup to various activities
(agriculture/construction/fisheries)
the extent of research
so many different types of similar seagrass
the relevance
flowers and seeds could be discovered with patience
Seagrass-Watch was done internationally
seagrass function and biology varies so much by species. Seagrass is only protected
by the Fisheries Act. There are gaps in research
many aspects of seagrass are so fundamental and straight forward

**Now I understand (that).....**
the importance of seagrass, it's function to a greater degree
the difference
only 6 GPS readings needed
how to properly identify the different seagrasses
there was a lot more to know. I have been assisting in AB1 watching for a few years
and it was good to learn so much more about it
seagrass is fundamentally important to so many other species
site recording is straight forward
the importance of monitoring at similar times each monitoring period due to the
influence of seasonality
the importance of seagrasses in intertidal area
seagrass meadows are actually more prevalent than I thought; but also in need of
conservation everywhere
SG is an important part marine ecosystems
it's important to do it right
seagrass is very important on multiple levels - not just for dugong population.
these ecosystems are vital in the way they interact with others
how to properly ID seagrass and some of the values it offers us
how fits into greater scheme
alot more clarity on ecology and monitoring
it is important to protect seagrass
seagrass is an important indication of an environment's health
more about seagrasses marine biology and coastal ecosystems

In my area, the types of seagrasses and habitats include:

- Zostera, Halodule. Adjacent mangrove communities, ovalis, spinulosa and cymodocea
- southern tip and whole western site of NSI
- capricorni and ovalis
- capricorni, ovalis
- estuaries, mud flats and dominated by zostera and ovalis
- zostera and it's costal. I like monitoring on sand not mud :-(
- coastal estuary, zostera, halophila ovalis, H. Spinulosa, halodule uninervis
- estuaries, zostera, ovalis
- zostera, halophila some shell cones and gastropods
- H. ovalis, Z. muelleri - mud flats
- Redcliffe are - beds at D/Bay and Bribie. None left in Bramble Bay?
- Zc and Ho in mud - lots of mangrove around
- Halophila ovalis and spinulosa, Halodule uninervis, Cymodocea serrulata and Syringodium isoetifolium
- Ho and zostera
- zostera and Ho
- Ho and Zc
- zostera sp. Estuarine and mangroves
- Ho & Zc. Sandy mudflats
- Zm, ovalis, Halodule, Syringodium
- HO, HS, HU, SI
- zostera and HO

When I go back to my area, I will.....

- put my training into practice
- monitor
- look more carefully at what is actually there in a marine scene
- update some reference sheets in kit
- appreciate the sand more. And I'll have a better understanding on a whole
- contact Deb about active groups in Northern Moreton Bay
- let my colleagues know the importance of seagrasses
- volunteer!
- be in touch re where to begin monitoring
- focus on taking proper photographs
- look more carefully at seagrass and how it is growing - species ID, plant structure, flowering
- know more and reinforce learning
- inform my students on the characteristics of seagrass and instil in them a sense of responsibility for monitoring it in our area
conduct SW in my new site involving (and training) students
monitor
be much more confident in monitoring
continue
help others with seagrass monitoring, advocate SGW
try to put this into practice
take further interest in seagrasses and coastal ecosystems

Other comments.....

Thanks heaps
look forward to more training
thanks heaps for everything
great workshop
great program
I am very thankful for you sharing your expertise with us. Great food! Look forward
to seeing you again
Very enjoyable
Thanks to Len and Rudi
It would be good if the data analysis backlog could be cleared. I would be glad to help
Really great workshop. Thanks Rudi and Len
Very well run, good facilities and speaker. Good food
Can't wait until Level 2 workshop! I enjoyed the format - low key, plenty of breaks,
but very informative and Len is a great instructor/speaker! Not boring and
easy to stay awake and learn
Thank you for providing such quality information and training. Thanks for the
lunch
An awesome weekend. Excellently run. Len and Rudi were very professional and
kept it light. It’s been quiet a few years since I’ve been in a classroom type
atmosphere and it was a pleasant change to use my brain to learn. Thanks
Cheers : - )