



What is Seagrass-Watch

Seagrass-Watch is a scientific, non-destructive, seagrass assessment and monitoring program that is being adopted worldwide to raise awareness on the condition and trend of nearshore seagrass ecosystems.

The goals of the programme are:

- To educate the wider community on the importance of seagrass resources
- To raise awareness of coastal management issues
- To build the capacity of local stakeholders in the use of standardised scientific methodologies
- To conduct long-term monitoring of seagrass & coastal habitat condition
- To provide an early warning system of coastal environment changes for management
- To support conservation measures which ensure the long-term resilience of seagrass ecosystems



Responsive management based on adequate information will help to protect the valuable seagrass meadows along our coasts. For this to be achieved everyone must work together, sharing their knowledge of this resource..



As the program has a strong scientific underpinning with an emphasis on consistent data collection, recording and reporting,; minimal training is required of participants to develop field expertise in monitoring seagrass habitats. This training is in the form of a workshop consisting of talks on the biology, taxonomy and ecology of seagrasses, threats to seagrass and monitoring of seagrass using Seagrass-Watch methods. This is followed by a session on how to identify different seagrass types culminating in a field session where we put into practice what we have learnt.

There are usually **four monitoring periods per year** (every 3 months) and one monitoring session generally takes about **two hours** over low tide to complete, once you have become familiar with the methods.



All data collected in the Seagrass-Watch program is the property of the group (principal) who collected it, and Seagrass-Watch HQ (DPI&F) is custodian. When a group submits data to HQ, they do so under the proviso that the data can be used by Seagrass-Watch HQ for condition and trend reporting at location, regional, state, national and global scales (eg, State of the Environment Queensland, State of the Environment Australia and State of the Environment GBR). Copies of raw data are provided to third parties only when permission from the principal is provided.

All data interpretation is conducted by Seagrass-Watch HQ. This ensures that the interpretation of data is consistent, unbiased and of scientific merit. Seagrass-Watch HQ also encourages peer review and assessment of published results.

For more information on the program please visit our website www.seagrasswatch.org



Members from Seagrass-Watch HQ (Jane and Naomi) will be conducting training in Cardwell June 3 and 4 in association with the Girringun Sea Rangers. As part of this training they will be give a public talk on Seagrass-Watch the evening of June 3 at 5:30. Everyone is welcome to attend this talk and to hear about Seagrass-Watch



For more information contact Girringun Aboriginal Corporation Ph: 40668300 or Jane on 0417 076309