



The following is feedback from participants who attended the Fiji Seagrass-Watch training workshop, March 1-2 2010.

(no text has been edited by Seagrass-Watch HQ)

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

- ..interesting and enjoyable*
- ..interesting and very informative*
- ..interesting and educating*
- ..very informative and interesting*
- ..very useful in upgrading my skills in seagrass observation*
- ..excellent and easy to follow. Very interactive sessions*

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

- ..the short assessments and packed with good info that was well presented*
- ..bonus and multiple assessments*
- ..the field aspect of the workshop*
- ..presentation and field work*
- .. the better understanding of seagrass given by the two tutors. A lot of things learned in the 2 days.*
- ..the field work and the presentation on the biology of seagrass*
- ..the fun and easy delivery of the content*
- ..going out to the sea and seeing things never saw before*
- ..training out at sea.*

It could have been better if....

- ..we had more training for Seagrass-Watch
- ..visit a good site
- ..each of the concepts are experienced in more depth – more time period over which the workshop could be covered
- ..a general email was sent to all the staff and students of USP, so that everyone would have been aware of such a workshop and the participation would have increased.
- ..more days given for field work
- ..it was fine the way it was
- ..everything was awesome
- ..more group interaction, which means more time and better morning/afternoon tea

I did not realize that

- ..many people registered and only a few showed up
- ..seagrass was a very important part of the marine ecosystem until this workshop
- ..*H. ovalis* didn't replace it's leaves
- ..seagrass are very important in terms as oxygen pump, medicinal values, source of food and shelter for marine organisms
- ..what I considered to be a seaweed was actually an angio sperm. I think it makes it more interesting (marine angiosperms)
- ..seagrass could contribute so much to the ecosystem (connectivity of seagrass was interesting)
- ..it would be interesting

Now I understand that....

- ..Seagrass-Watch training is useful to my environment
- ..it is easy to understand and comprehend the monitoring of seagrass communities
- ..seagrass are equally important as terrestrial plants and that our efforts in conserving them would not be fruitless
- ..seagrass monitoring is very important and there should be increased public awareness on seagrass meadow conservation
- ..all aspects of our environment including seagrass needs a lot of conservation
- ..seagrass ecosystem is very important and how to monitor them
- ..the next training I will be a bit more ruthless in getting participants to register etc

In my area the types of seagrasses and habitats include

- .. Ho, Hu, HP, Hob, and Si
- ..Ho, Hp
- ..Halodule uninervis. Habitat – sand and mud flat
- ..Coastal areas, mudflats and estuarine areas. There are 5 sp with 1 ssp. In today's field work we found 3 species
- ..Types of seagrass- 4 types – Halophila ovalis (ssp bullosa), Halophila pinifolia, Halodule uninervis. Habitat – Mud flat
- ..Turtle feeding areas

When I go back to my area, I will

- .. try to protect seagrass and other marine life
- ..try to do my best in protecting seagrass and other marine species
- ..try and aid the area (country) seagrass coordinators in terms of monitoring and training
- ..inform my friends and workmates the importance of seagrass
- ..teach the young generation the importance of seagrass
- ..share the knowledge and skills with my colleagues and students
- ..advise the people in my community on the importance of seagrass in the marine environment as a food source and shelter for many marine invertebrates
- ..continue to care for seagrass by monitoring and raise awareness of others so they can become better advocates of seagrass

Other comments

- ..Thanks Len/Rudi – I enjoyed it and look forward to the next training
- ..interested in intermediate and advanced training.
- ..Please come back and do more workshops as it is important to educate members of society
- ..I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. Thanks Len, Rudi and Posa
- ..The workshop was conducted in an excellent manner, whereby we actually learnt about the theory and practical aspects of seagrasses
- ..The presenters were very good and easy to understand what was said and comprehend concepts. Also, it was easy to communicate with the organisers. (Presenters were friendly and fun)
- ..I would like to attend more training about Seagrass-Watch
- ..I want to say a "BIG Thanks" Vinaka



Thank you