

Seagrass-Watch HQ

From: Seagrass-Watch HQ [hq@seagrasswatch.org]
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To: Seagrass-Watch HQ
Subject: SEAGRASS-WATCH BULLETIN - 05 December 2006



SEAGRASS-WATCH BULLETIN

05 December 2006

Seagrass-Watch's electronic news service, providing marine and coastal news of international and national interest.

Seagrass-Watch welcomes feedback on the bulletins, and you are free to distribute it amongst your own networks.

NEWS

Scientists: Seagrass Ecosystems at a 'Global Crisis'; Elevating Public Awareness 'Critical'

Dec 1, 2006 14:41 EST

An international team of scientists is calling for a targeted global conservation effort to preserve seagrasses and their ecological services for the world's coastal ecosystems, according to an article published in the December issue of Bioscience, the journal of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS).

The article "A Global Crisis for Seagrass Ecosystems" cites the critical role seagrasses play in coastal systems and how coastal development, population growth and the resulting increase of nutrient and sediment pollution have contributed to large-scale losses worldwide.

"Seagrasses are the coal mine canaries of coastal ecosystems," said co-author Dr. William Dennison of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. "The fate of seagrasses can provide resource managers advance signs of deteriorating ecological conditions caused by poor water quality and pollution."

Among its findings, the study analyzed an apparent disconnect between the scientific community's concerns over seagrass habitat and its coverage in the popular media..... [more](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)
<http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

5 December - International Volunteer Day (IVD)

From Samoa to Canada, millions of volunteers are celebrating International Volunteer Day, 5

December. To date, around 60 countries planned several activities to appreciate volunteers and promote volunteerism in their communities -- from giving recognition to millions of volunteers who provided disaster relief and ensured peaceful elections, to empowering disabled people in Viet Nam and giving free medical treatment in Trinidad & Tobago.

IVD offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations and individual volunteers to make visible their contributions - at local, national and international levels - to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Over the years, rallies, parades, community volunteering projects, environmental awareness, free medical care and advocacy campaigns have all featured prominently on IVD.

For more information visit <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/>

GALLERY

Cawaci (Fiji): 25 November 2006 <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/gallery.html>

"Had to abandon the monitoring on November 18th as the strong winds & current made it impossible to do anything. Went out again on November 25th and were successful. The weather was great – women out fishing close to the sites!" Text: Nicolette Yoshida

Semakau (Singapore): 22 November 2006 <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/gallery.html>

"An amphibious landing on Semakau was achieved by the intrepid TeamSeagrass! With a very obliging boatman at the helm, we managed to get off onto the seagrass meadows without having to swim. In the desultory drizzle, the vast meadows of Semakau was quite romantic. Semakau has magnificent reefs too. Despite the proximity of gigantic petrochemical plants, and our landfill, Semakau's reefs are very much alive.." Text: Team Seagrass-Singapore

FROM THE FIELD

Gordon Cottle (Local Coordinator for Great Sandy Strait, Queensland, Australia) Dec 3, 2006

Thrilled to report that Robyn and Hanne (with Paul's Boat) surveyed KC1 on Saturday and have today walked to PN3, using boards to carry equipment. A wonderful effort ! The nett result is that ALL sites have been surveyed since April. A well deserved break now until the Autumn tides. Thank you to all, have a wonderful and enjoyable festive Season....

FROM HQ

Seagrass Biology Giveaway <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/shop.html#GIVE1>

Seagrass-Watch HQ has several copies of "SEAGRASS BIOLOGY: Proceedings of an International Workshop Rottnest Island, Western Australia 25-29 January 1996" to give away. The 2 volume hardcover sets, originally AUS\$80, have been kindly donated by Dr John Kuo. The proceedings contain 49 peer reviewed scientific papers and 9 abstracts in the areas of Reflections; Diversity; Molecular Genetics; Hydrodynamics; Production and Nutrient Dynamics; Animal Interactions; Decline and Recovery; Monitoring and Management; and 8 colour plates. If you would like a copy, send your request (including mailing details) to hq@seagrasswatch.org.

Seagrass-Watch News Issue 27

The latest newsletter from the Seagrass-Watch program is now available online at <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/newsletters.html> . Hard copies available from Monday 11th December.

Seagrass-Watch HQ in Fiji - January 2007

Scientists from Seagrass-Watch HQ will be in Fiji early January 2007 conducting monitoring and training where required. If you would like to participate or require further information, please contact hq@seagrasswatch.org .

Future sampling dates <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html#SAMPL>

Please note: all sampling dates and times are provided by local coordinators and monitoring groups. Seagrass-Watch HQ provides technical support and does not direct local on-ground activities with the exception of Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Protection Plan biological monitoring (RWQPP).

DISCLAIMER

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Seagrass-Watch Bulletin is compiled by Rudi Yoshida & Len McKenzie.