

## Seagrass-Watch HQ

---

**From:** Seagrass-Watch HQ [hq@seagrasswatch.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 March 2007 8:42 PM  
**To:** Seagrass-Watch HQ  
**Cc:** Seagrass-Watch HQ  
**Subject:** SEAGRASS-WATCH BULLETIN - 02 March 2007



## SEAGRASS-WATCH BULLETIN

*02 March 2007*

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.  
[www.seagrasswatch.org](http://www.seagrasswatch.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEWS

### ***Seaweek March 4-10: Marine bycatch matters (Australia)***

From 4-10 March 2007, the Marine Education Society of Australasia's (MESA), the Bureau of Rural Sciences and other key stakeholder groups will work together to develop and deliver an awareness raising campaign focusing on marine bycatch in wild fisheries. It will include activities which will increase awareness of bycatch issues; encourage the adoption of existing bycatch technologies/practices, and encourage research into new technologies/practices.

Seaweek was created in 1987 at the Marine Discovery Centre, Queenscliff, Victoria by Julie Swartz and Pauline Halpin. It began as an art competition that was promoted in all states of Australia and was accompanied by an educational kit consisting of marine activities and relevant information brochures. Today, SeaWeek is a major national public awareness campaign. It is conducted annually to focus community awareness, provide information and encourage an appreciation of the sea.

To participate and for more information, visit <http://www.mesa.edu.au/seaweek.asp>

### ***Clean Up Australia Day: 4 March 2007 (Australia)***

Every year hundreds of thousands of Australians help clean up their local environment on Clean Up Australia Day. It's fun, easy and everyone can take part. Individuals and local groups can either organise a Clean Up site or volunteer to join an existing site.

From Perth to Penrith hundreds of thousands of Australians collect and remove rubbish from the environment on Clean Up Australia Day. The day is firmly entrenched in the Australian calendar. It is an apolitical, non-profit community campaign in which everyone can participate.

Clean Up Australia Day has successfully grown each year to make this community event the largest annual environmental campaign in Australia.

To participate and for more information, visit <http://www.cleanup.com.au/au/GetInvolved/clean-up-australia-day.html>

### ***See more sea grass (St. Petersburg,FL,USA)***

March 2, 2007 - St. Petersburg Times

Tampa Bay is healthier than it has been in years. Over the past two years, the bay has gained 1,300 acres of seagrass, and water clarity is the best since record keeping began in the 1970s, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program announced this week. As a result of the gains, Tampa Bay has about 28,299 acres of seagrass, the highest total since the 1950s but still short of the agency's goal of 38,000 acres. Seagrass serves as the bay's nursery, nurturing and supporting a wide variety of fish and other species. The seagrass and clarity have been slowly recovering since the end of sewage dumping in the bay and developers were barred from dredging the bay bottom.

Source: [http://www.sptimes.com/2007/03/02/State/Dateline\\_Florida.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2007/03/02/State/Dateline_Florida.shtml)

### ***Court sinks giant marina plan (Sydney,New South Wales,Australia)***

March 1, 2007, Sydney Morning Herald

A controversial marina planned for a small Tweed Valley town has been rejected in the Land and Environment Court in a case the developer says could have repercussions statewide. The judgement found that the approval by the Minister for Planning, Frank Sartor, of the expansion of a proposed marina at Chinderah from 29 to 115 berths should be overturned. The original 29-berth marina can proceed. Justice Jayne Jagot, in a judgement delivered on Monday, found that the proposed expanded development would have adverse social, economic, environmental and visual effects on the town. A key factor in the decision was Justice Jagot's finding that the proposed marina would disturb significant seagrass beds and that the marina would not generate local employment.

A spokesman for the developer, Rivercolt Pty Ltd, said the judgement took the company by surprise. Mr Swarts said he did not expect Rivercolt to appeal against the decision and he warned other developers seeking to build marinas that they should take note of the decision. "I think it is an important decision for anyone in NSW. It marks a considerable hurdle for the development and approval of marinas. They are not easy, they are not flavour of the month and they attract local opposition.

The case was brought by a Fingal woman, Katie Milne, who represented the concerns of a range of cane growers, local businesses and environmentalists. The president of the Tweed Cane Growers Association, Graham Martin, said he opposed the development because of the effect it would have on sugar cane grown on the Tweed Valley flood plain. Mr Martin said he felt the local residents were the underdog in the case. "The developer seemed to have so much power. They come in and have so much money to throw around. They lobby extremely hard in government," he said yesterday. While recognising that specific factors such as the seagrass and location led to Justice Jagot's decision, Mr Martin said the judgement could be relevant in other marina development cases taken to the court.

Source & full story : <http://www.smh.com.au/news/environment/court-sinks-giant-marina-plan/2007/02/28/1172338709801.html>

### ***Research team to study sea grass die-off in Outer Clam Bay (Naples,FL,USA)***

February 27, 2007 Naples Daily News

A four-month study of a sea grass die-off in Outer Clam Bay got a go-ahead from Collier County commissioners Tuesday. Commissioners voted to spend up to \$40,000 to hire a research team led by sea grass expert Dave Tomasko, a project manager with the firm Post, Buckley, Schuh

and Jernigan, to study the cause of the die-off and what can be done to restore the sea grasses, an important link in the marine food chain and a key indicator of estuary health.

Outer Clam Bay, south of Clam Pass in northeastern Collier County, is bordered to the south by the Naples Cay and Seagate neighborhoods. The Pelican Bay neighborhood is to the north. A combination of Collier County and Pelican Bay studies dating to 1994 show Outer Clam Bay has lost more than half of its sea grasses, from about 10 acres to between 3 and 4 acres. Seagate Homeowners Association president David Buser, who says the die-off has been worse than the studies show, has accused Pelican Bay of not doing enough to protect the sea grasses as part of a permit to restore nearby mangroves. The study will pay special attention to ways to educate the neighborhoods that drain into Clam Bay about how to limit polluted runoff into the bay.

Source:

[http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2007/feb/27/research\\_team\\_study\\_sea\\_grass\\_die\\_outer\\_clam\\_bay](http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2007/feb/27/research_team_study_sea_grass_die_outer_clam_bay)

---

## TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Townsville (Qld): 18th of March 2007 <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/training.html#wrkshop07>

Singapore: 26th of March 2007 <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/training.html#wrkshop07>

---

## GALLERY

Torres Strait (Australia): 25-28 February 2007 <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/gallery.html>

Front Beach (TI21)  
Workshop - Thursday Island  
Back Beach (TI1)  
Horn Island (HI1)  
Hammond Island (HD1)

Chek Jawa (Singapore): 24 February 2007 <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/gallery.html>

---

## FROM HQ

Giveaways <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/shop.html#GIVE1>

- Seagrasses of Australia
- Phytoplankton Guide
- Manual for Assessing Fish Stocks on Pacific Corral Reefs (only 5 left)
- Seagrass Biology
- Bookmarks
- Stickers

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

Seagrass-Watch News Issue 27 <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/newsletters.html>

Handy Seagrass Links <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/links.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed in this bulletin are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Queensland Government. News articles posted as a free community service for the purposes of non-commercial education, research and study; review and the reporting of news; and archived for reference of students and researchers as a 'fair dealing' activity under Australian Copyright Law.

Seagrass-Watch is supported by the Australian Government's Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (Department of the Environment and Water Resources) represented in North Queensland by the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), the Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (EPA), the David & Lucile Packard Foundation and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries.

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