



Seagrass-Watch E-Bulletin

30 April 2015

Seagrass-Watch's electronic news service, providing marine and coastal news of international and national interest. Abbreviated/edited articles are presented with links to their source. Seagrass-Watch HQ recommends that readers exercise their own skill and care with respect to their use of the information in this bulletin and that readers carefully evaluate the accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance of the material in the bulletin for their purposes. You are free to distribute it amongst your own networks.

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NEWS

Survey of sea grass aims to educate (USA)

26 April 2015, Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Close to 100 people volunteered Saturday morning to watch grass grow. That may sound dull on the surface, but the work had deeper meaning. For about four hours, a collection of boaters, kayakers, snorkelers and waders documented the size of underwater seagrass populations across 13 square miles of Sarasota Bay and Roberts Bay.

The area's population of sea grass, which provides food, shelter and more to aquatic life, has been on the rise in recent years. The data collected Saturday by volunteers at the 2015 Sarasota County Seagrass Survey will help scientists ensure the trend stays positive.

In prior years the surveys have been conducted over a period of weeks. This year the county hosted the effort on a single day to get more people involved.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Oxygen and temperature levels examined in Kimberley reef study (Australia)

22 April 2015, Science Network Western

Marine scientists are using results from a recent reef study at Tallon Island, north of Broome, to develop predictive models for use on other reef systems in the Kimberley. Speaking at the 2015 WAMSI Research Conference, University of Western Australia Associate Professor Ryan Lowe said the interactions occurring in these 'tidally-forced' reefs still remain unknown in relation to the widespread literature of wave-dominated reefs worldwide.

A/Prof Lowe's field program focused on detailed process-studies of the Tallon Island platform reef to understand the role of extreme environmental variability. Using an array of synchronised current meters, tide gauges and thermistors (measurement and control instrument) A/Prof Lowe and his team researched primary production under extreme physical force by focusing on coral, algae and seagrass. The results from the intensive field study, conducted three times during the dry and wet seasons, were used to measure the temperature variability across the intertidal reef.

A/Prof Lowe said extreme temperature variables were affecting the reef, with spatial patterns causing seagrass warming of up to almost 35 and 40 degrees Celsius. "It is good in that it keeps these reefs from drying out during the day but it reduces the exchange of water in the ocean so it allows these extremes in temperatures and biogeochemicals to occur." The scientists noticed extreme variations in oxygen, with primary producers such as seagrasses and algae producing a high amount during the daytime but with a noticeable decrease during the evening. "However, we are getting twice as much post primary production in the seagrass zone as we are in the algal zone," he says.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Sirens of the sea: Can ancient myths protect the original mermaid from extinction?

21 April 2015, Deutsche Welle

Dugongs and manatees are under threat. But folk traditions surrounding these strange beasts - which from the Amazon to Australia are linked with legends of aquatic seduction - could help mobilize in their defense. The manatee's tail is shaped like an enormous paddle. From a certain angle, a cartoonish smile seems to grace its heavy snout. And despite its streamlined shape, the animal's bulk gives it an ungainly appearance. Yet once upon a time, sailors starved of female company are believed to have mistaken these curious beasts for marine enchantresses.

This time, the animal is taking center stage in a political dispute between the Japanese government and the Okinawa Prefecture over plans to build a US military base on the coast there. Campaigners who have been fighting the base for almost 20 years are increasingly focusing on its environmental impact. They say it will not only have a devastating effect on precious coral reefs, but will also wipe out Japan's last remaining dugong population. Hideki Yoshikawa, co-director of the Citizens' Network for Biodiversity in Okinawa, says the dugong's historical and cultural significance make it a naturally important symbol of resistance to the planned military facility.

Such legends are echoed across the globe. Indigenous cultures around the world also have their tales to tell. Some depict the manatee as a beautiful young woman, others talk of the Milky Way being spilt across the heavens when a dugong calf was torn from its mother's breast. Even the name "dugong" comes from a Malay word meaning "lady of the sea."

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

DAP man protests against Penang reclamation (Malaysia)

21 April 2015, The Star Online

A giant banner has appeared at Middle Bank protesting against possible reclamation under the Penang Structure Plan 2007. Tanjung Bungah assemblyman Teh Yee Cheu put up the 10m x 3m banner yesterday with the words "Save Penang. No To Reclamation Project 2015" at the site, which is also known as Pulau Gazumbo, located between the Penang Bridge and the Sungai Pinang river mouth.

Teh, an environmentalist, added that he had highlighted the matter in the state assembly in 2012 but there was no response from the state. Teh said there were only four seagrass beds along the Straits of Malacca, from Johor to Phuket. "The seagrass patch in Middle Bank is the second largest in peninsular Malaysia after Merambong in Gelang Patah, Johor."

It was reported that the Penang Development Corporation had called for a Request for Proposal to reclaim the area. Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng had said the reclamation project would only proceed if the environmental impact assessment permitted it. Universiti Malaysia Terengganu School of Marine Science and Environment dean Prof Dr Zulfigar Yasin said Middle Bank dissipated the impact of the 2004 tsunami.

more..... <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

Dredging of Queensland inlet for ships dropped on environmental grounds (Australia)

18 April 2015, The Guardian

Plans to dredge a far north Queensland inlet for a potential cruise ship terminal have been abandoned by the state government on environmental and financial grounds. The state treasurer, Curtis Pitt, has released a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposal, which could have involved dumping Cairns Port dredge spoil on waters near the Great Barrier Reef. He criticised the former Newman government for committing \$40m to the Trinity Inlet project in 2012, saying the money never would have made it viable. The Palaszczuk government has withdrawn the allocated money.

The statement acknowledged there are sensitive ecological receptors, including seagrass and corals, which could have been adversely affected by at-sea dredge spoil dumping. The government's announcement has been welcomed by conservation groups who branded the plan ill-conceived and unnecessary.

more..... <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

ABS data shows reef coral, seagrass loss (Australia)

17 April 2015, Gladstone Observer

Startling statistics have revealed a severe drop in the reef's seagrass, coral and water quality in the Fitzroy region and the Mackay and Whitsunday region. Figures show the Fitzroy region has recorded a decline of more than 50% in seagrass and coral quality on the Great Barrier Reef. The Mackay and Whitsunday region has had a 45% drop in water quality.

On Thursday the Australian Bureau of Statistics released the first ecosystem accounts that examined data taken over the past decade of the reef's condition and scored it accordingly. It showed seagrass condition had dropped by more than half in the Fitzroy area; going from 100 points when data started being collected in 2005-06 to just 38 points in 2012. There has also been a decline in seagrass condition in the Mackay and Whitsunday region, going from 100 points in 2005 to its lowest level of 21 points in 2011. It then bounced back to 38.4 points in 2012. Water quality has been following similar patterns. Coral has also been declining.

The ABS report - An Experimental Ecosystem Account for the Great Barrier Reef Region went into detail about the seascape, fishing, landscape, biodiversity, agriculture and tourism. The report stated climate change, declining water quality from catchment runoff and loss of coastal habitats from fishing and coastal development were the main factors affecting the reef's condition. "Many of these threats are the result of regional or global actions, beyond the boundaries of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park," the report said.

more..... <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

Dugong feeding trails found close to Henoko relocation area (Japan)

16 April 2015, Ryukyu shimpo

Dugong feeding trails were found on April 15 at a depth of 19.7 meters in a part of Oura Bay adjacent to the planned Henoko base. Dugong feeding trails have never been found at such a depth in Japan before. There is a possibility that the seabed-boring survey off Henoko has driven the animals into deeper waters.

The Dugong Network Okinawa, Northern Limit Dugong Research Team Zan, and Diving Team Rainbow of the Helicopter Base Objection Association found the feeding trails outside the temporary restricted area. The divers confirmed 35 feeding trails in an area of the sea-bed, 50 meters in diameter. They say the latest trails were made about a week ago. The length of the trails are relatively short, at between 1.9 and 10.5 meters. The trails seem to have been made by the youngest of the three dugongs that the Okinawa Defense Bureau claim inhabit the waters around the main island of Okinawa.

There have been concerns that the boring survey could drive dugongs away from their feeding sites. Although the society requested the U.S. military in Japan carry out a survey on dugong feeding habits within the restricted area, the request was rejected. A survey carried out by the defense bureau confirmed the existence of dugongs on September 1 2014. Since then, the bureau has not made any announcements confirming the existence of dugongs

more..... <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

Helpers wade into seagrass (Australia)

16 April 2015, Noosa News

Bribie Island resident Joyce Newell isn't afraid to get dirty when it comes to helping the environment. For Ms Newell, that little bit involves wading into mud at Pumicestone Passage and measuring the density of seagrass. And she, along with a host of other volunteers, want your help.

On Wednesday, Wildlife Queensland volunteers gathered at the mouth of Ningi Creek in an effort to raise awareness about the ecological importance of seagrass and to call for more people to get involved in monitoring it in the Pumicestone Passage. Wildlife Queensland project officer Debra Henry said seagrass in Pumicestone Passage was healthy and provided essential habitat for two of Moreton Bay's most iconic species, the green turtle and the dugong.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

In praise of seagrasses and their special place in the Pacific (Australia)

16 April 2015, Radio Australia

An international project that's helping save the threatened dugongs of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu has produced some amazing facts about their seagrass habitats.

Pacific Regional Environment Program's migratory species specialist, Mike Donoghue says they store carbon dioxide 35 times faster than rainforests can and ecology assessments rate them as three times more valuable than coral reefs.

They're clearly an underwater miracle plant and James Cook University researcher Len McKenzie says the value of seagrass is not widely appreciated.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Protecting dugongs - just what is the scale of the threat to the sea cow? (Australia)

16 April 2015, Radio Australia

Dugongs - or sea cows as they can be known because they graze on underwater grasses - are vulnerable to extinction while seagrasses are one of the most threatened ecosystems on the planet.

The four-year project has just started and The Pacific Regional Environment Program's migratory species specialist, Mike Donoghue, says the four-year project will have a focus on Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Townsville council seeks exemption from proposal to ban dredge spoil dumping on Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

15 April 2015, ABC Local

Townsville City Council in north Queensland has asked for emergency dredging projects to be exempt from a ban on the dumping of spoil on the Great Barrier Reef. The Federal Government has been asking for feedback on its plan to ban the disposal of capital dredge spoil in the World Heritage area.

In its submission, the Townsville council said it welcomed the proposal but recommended works to protect coastal communities from climate change and potential sea level rises be exempt from the ban. It said it would support the re-use of spoil and it would benefit the community. It has also asked authorities to allow dredge spoil to be dumped in the marine park area, if it is in response to natural disasters.

The council said it also wanted a guide to be developed to help identify possible sites on land for the dumping of spoil. The Federal Government is hoping to have the ban implemented by the end of June.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Wildlife expert claims we have a last chance for our marine sanctuaries (UK)

15 April 2015, Daily Echo

Every year thousands of boats cut through the waves, off the Needles on the Isle of Wight be they giant cargo ships or cruise liners or smaller fishing or pleasure boats. The Needles Protected Wreck Site, situated not far off the island's landmark attraction, is thought to contain the remains of two Royal Navy frigates, HMS Assurance (sunk 1753) and HMS Pomone (sunk 1811). Nowadays the remains of some of these wrecks play host to a wealth of marine life including colourful sponges, soft corals and shoals of fish feeding in the rich tidal waters. The surrounding area is also home to other important marine habitats like seagrass beds. However, the seagrass beds and other important habitats and species in the area are vulnerable to disturbance from human activity.

The Needles is one of three potential Marine Conservation Zones in our region, each with their own special wildlife habitats, and human and natural history. The Government is currently consulting on these and other new Marine Conservation Zones for the UK until April 24, meaning a window of just over a week remains for us to ensure three key areas in our region are protected.

Marine Conservation Zones will not only help protect some of the rare and wonderful species that call them home, but also our nation's rich and colourful maritime heritage. This protection is not just important for wildlife, but also crucial for our local economy. These areas are vital breeding grounds for many commercial species of fish, crustaceans and molluscs. Giving oysters a chance to re-populate the Solent could also herald the revival of a once successful fishery and protecting seagrass beds can play a role in combating climate change and sea level rise.
more..... <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

'Citizen scientists' immersed in bid to conserve vital marine habitat (UK)

12 April 2015, Western Morning News

Divers, kayakers, and other water users have been enlisted to study some of the most threatened parts of the Westcountry coastline. The Community Seagrass Initiative, led by the National Marine Aquarium (NMA) in Plymouth, is surveying seagrass beds from Looe to Weymouth. The "Citizen Science" project was awarded £475,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund to provide opportunities for volunteers to get involved.

The three project officers running the project in the South West are keen to reach recruit divers, kayakers, boat users, teachers and Internet users to help with their surveys. Dr David Gibson, director of the NMA, said it was a "Citizen Science" project. The beds are all protected, but they are damaged by pollution from the land and by boaters who anchor carelessly or by jetskis. Dr Gibson said that around the world schemes to get local people to adopt the seagrasses had been a success, leading to no-anchor zones and other protective measures.

Global warming also poses a threat because British species of seagrass are adapted to survive in colder water. Warmer water also allows the spread of fish such as bream and rainbow wrasse, which graze on the plants. The grasses grow from the zone of the lowest low tide down to about ten metres. The project is being run by Mark Parry at the NMA, helped by colleagues at Living Coasts at Torquay and the Sea Life Centre in Weymouth. There are 17 individual seagrass beds between Looe and Weymouth, in sheltered areas like the Tamar estuary, Plymouth Sound, the Salcombe estuary and Torbay.
more..... <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

Alarm over reclamation of massive sea area (Malaysia)

10 April 2015, Free Malaysia Today

A civic group has questioned the wisdom of carrying out the state-proposed Middlebank reclamation project in the Penang Channel to facilitate implementation of the Penang Transport Master Plan (TMP). Penang Citizens Awareness Chant Group (Chant) sounded the alarm today with its coordinator, Yan C Lee, pointing out that there is a submarine power cable and a seagrass bed in the Middlebank area. He pointed out that the Department of Environment (DOE) had rejected a similar reclamation project to facilitate the Forest City project in Johor. He warned that any reclamation project carried out in the Middlebank area would cause severe damage to the state's coastal environment and ecosystem.

The project, which will be carried out between the Sungai Pinang river mouth and the Penang Bridge, is part of the proposed RM27 billion Penang TMP. A third of it covers the seagrass bed. Yan, who claimed to have inside information, said there were no clear guidelines on how the project would take place without tampering with the submarine cable. Six companies have submitted tender bids to implement the TMP. A decision on the successful bidder is expected to be known before the middle of this year. Before implementation, the selected company is required to conduct a feasibility study of the proposed reclamation.

Middlebank covers an area of about 607ha, almost twice as big as Pulau Jerejak. It is the only sea grass bed in Penang waters and among only a handful in the Straits of Malacca. It is home to a rich biodiversity and to at least four distinctly different genera of sea grass, making it a unique biological habitat. Researchers have found that Middlebank contains a rich variety of living marine species, including sea anemones, hermit crabs, cockles, clams, sea urchins, fan shells, sea cucumbers, turtles, dugongs and octopuses.
more..... <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

Researchers to undertake Sydney Harbour ecosystem review (Australia)

09 April 2015, 9news.com.au

There are concerns locals are enjoying Sydney Harbour too much, with a new study set to determine impacts people have had on the precious waterway. Researchers at the University of New South Wales are set to review how boating is affecting the 55 square kilometre underwater ecosystem – the largest natural harbour in the world. Four million people, tens of thousands of fishermen, and 17,000 boats are taking their toll.

Getting to the bottom of the mystery, researchers are plunging into the biggest survey ever undertaken in the harbour. Of special concern the damage caused by thousands of permanent boat moorings on delicate meadows of seagrass. Their findings may ultimately lead to major changes to boat moorings. so clusters of boats can hang off just one point on the seabed. There are many possibilities.

Ahead of researchers is thousands of dives over three years, right around Sydney Harbour. And video of everything from fish populations, to seagrass, and even the rubbish we leave behind. Hopefully at the end of the research is a plan to allow future generations to enjoy what they have now.

more..... <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

Seagrass project will help preserve 'cute' sea life (UK)

09 April 2015, Torquay Herald Express

The Community Seagrass Initiative has been launched in Torbay with a special event for volunteers to learn more about opportunities to get involved in preserving some of the area's cutest underwater residents. The pioneering initiative will cover the 191-mile stretch of coastline from Looe in Cornwall, to Weymouth in Dorset. The citizen-based project will provide opportunities for the general public to engage with their coastal areas and be a part of an exciting project to benefit the coastal communities for years to come.

Everyone from schoolchildren, sailors, canoeists, divers, kayakers and even internet users will be encouraged to get involved and help collect vital data to aid the mapping and surveying of seagrass meadows along the south coast which are homes to native seahorses.

Spearheaded by the National Marine Aquarium, the initiative is in partnership with Plymouth University Marine Institute, Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, Weymouth Sealife and Living Coasts, and was made possible by a £475,000 grant received by the Heritage Lottery Fund last year.

more..... <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

Celebrating seagrass: Local communities participate in annual festival (USA)

08 April 2015, Aransas Pass Progress

In 2009, World Seagrass Day was established in Aransas Pass as way to connect seagrass research scientists with the general public. At the time, this small but growing number of seagrass scientists were appealing for a way to raise public awareness about the importance of seagrass to the ecology and economy of Texas. They were and still are part of the Texas Seagrass Monitoring Work Group created by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to generate a 10-year seagrass monitoring plan for the State that began in 2000 for 2010, and now 2010 to 2020.

The group meets biannually in the Coastal Bend region where there are vast seagrass meadows in shallow bays and estuaries. They will discuss the latest seagrass research efforts, review regulatory challenges, and the future of seagrass monitoring. This past year, TPWD and TCEQ teamed up to set up the first comprehensive seagrass monitoring project at 53 sites in primarily San Antonio Bay and a few in surrounding bays. It is a major accomplishment with 15 chemical, biological and physical parameters to be measured and data collected.

On Friday, April 10, Aransas Pass Charlie Marshall Elementary School and Blaschke-Sheldon Elementary Schools will team up to host the sixth annual World Seagrass Day Parade and Festival Of Knowledge. Both schools are designated 'Seagrass Savvy Schools' for their learning about the importance of protecting seagrasses now and for the future. They will be greeted by the A.C. Blunt Middle School audience and the State of the Seagrass message will be read along with the "Aransas Pass: Seagrass Capital of the World" proclamation.

more..... <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

Tropical seagrass examined for light pressures (Australia)

02 April 2015, Science Network Western Australia

Research into seagrass susceptibility to dredging activities has revealed exactly how fragile some of the tropical marine plants species are when faced with a decreased level of light. The findings, presented at the 2015 WA Marine Science Institute Conference, form one avenue of research of the Dredging Science Node, one of two of Australia's largest marine programs, the second being the Kimberley Marine Research Program. The Dredging Science Node is meant to help assess marine dredging proposals.

According to previous research, dredging impacts seagrass through mechanisms such as reduced light availability and burial under deposited sediments. Part of the seagrass research project aimed to determine whether the seagrasses had the ability to tolerate changes in light availability and sediment burial or whether they had the ability to recover from pressures.

UWA researcher John Statton is involved in the laboratory experiments being undertaken as part of a subproject to test pressure response relationships of tropical seagrasses to dredge pressures. Speaking at the conference, he said

they developed a large-scale seagrass research facility at UWA to test the effects of light reduction and sediment burial on seagrass species *Cymodocea serrulata*, *Halodule uninervis* and *Halophila ovalis*. During the first experiment, species were exposed to six levels of light reduction. All plants in high light treatments, or 100 and 60 per cent surface irradiance (SI), survived and grew over 12 weeks. However, as the light was reduced to the lowest SI at four per cent, *H. uninervis* and *C. serrulata* were trending to complete mortality after 12 weeks.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

'Wrong' mangrove rehab in Yolanda areas wasting funds (Philippines)

07 April 2015, Rappler

When marine biologist Margie Dela Cruz saw an old man about to plant mangrove seedlings in a channel in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, she panicked. The man was about to plant a species of mangroves called *Rhizophora*, more commonly called bakhaw, in seagrass beds, a completely different ecosystem from mangroves and home to a different set of organisms. Dela Cruz clearly remembered what the old man replied to her panicked questioning: "This is a government project, Why will they teach us the wrong thing?" But that is exactly what may be the case, according to several Filipino scientists.

Many have called the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-led program "unscientific" and "rushed." One mangrove species is favored, ignoring the suitability of the species for different sites. Mangroves are replanted in inappropriate areas – like seagrass beds, mudflats, and rocky shores. The result, they said, is often wasted public funds since the mangrove seedlings die.

If the allegations are true, the government's reforestation strategy may be wasting millions of taxpayers' money and giving a false sense of security to communities depending on the mangroves for protection against high waves and storm surge. In press releases, the DENR said the government had allotted P1 billion for the "massive reforestation of mangrove and beach forest across the country." Of this, a sizable chunk will go to Yolanda-affected Eastern Visayas. This is on top of the P38 million for mangrove and beach forest planting in Leyte and Samar.

[Full story: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2015-04/acoefio042115.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2015-04/acoefio042115.php)

CONFERENCES

4th Mediterranean Seagrass Workshop (MSW '15) (Sardinia, Italy, 18–22 May 2015)

The 4th Mediterranean Seagrass Workshop is hosted by the International Marine Centre of Oristano.

Important dates:

Abstract submission is now closed, but registrations are open
for more information, visit <http://mediterranean.seagrassonline.org/sardinia/> or follow on Twitter @SardiniaMeet

52nd Australian Marine Science Association Conference (AMSA 2015), Estuaries to Oceans (Geelong, July 5-9 2015)

From the upper reaches of urban estuaries to the remote seas of the Southern ocean, marine science enables us to understand, conserve and sustainably manage our marine world. The focus of the 2015 AMSA conference, "Estuaries to Oceans" encompasses the importance of transitions, boundaries and connectivity in the dynamics of marine systems. 'There are some exciting changes to the format of this year's conference with the introduction of E-poster talks and a more focused approach to themes and symposia. See the program overview and presentations sections for more details.

The conference will be held on the shores of Port Phillip Bay, at Deakin University's Waterfront campus in the central business district of Geelong. Originally built as woolstores in 1893, the buildings have been extensively renovated to create a modern and impressive campus centre. Geelong is Victoria's largest regional city and is the gateway to the Great Ocean Road, beautiful surf beaches and an amazing wine region.'

THEMES:

- Applications of Integrated Model-observing Systems
- Behaviour, Movement and Tracking of Marine Megafauna
- Estuarine and Coastal Biogeochemistry
- Estuarine Ecosystems
- Marine biogeography: origins, connectivity and macro-ecology of the austral biota
- Marine Contamination
- Mathematical Modelling of Marine Systems and Beyond
- New Approaches to Marine Production
- Non-indigenous and Invasive species: what have we learned?
- Population Connectivity: the ecology of larval dispersal and movement in marine environments
- Using Monitoring to Map the Marine World
- Valuing Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Services
- Marine and coastal ecosystems play a fundamental role in providing a wide range of benefits to sustainable human wellbeing, to the

Open Theme (for contributions that do not fit named themes)

SYMPOSIA:

Are Marine Sanctuary Zones in Australia Adequate?
Marine Wastewater Outfalls in the 21st Century: still a solution or just dilution
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the health of Australia's marine environment: innovative ideas to progress current approaches
Marine habitat repair and restoration

Workshops

Sunday 5th July 2015, 0900 – 1630

Workshop 1 – Introduction to R for Ecologists

Workshop 2 – Introduction to Generalised Linear Modeling

Workshop 3 – Seagrass Research

Workshop 4 – AMSA Early Career Researchers Workshop – Ocean Careers: Growing your Professional Footprint

for more information, visit <http://www.amsaconference.net/>

Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation 23rd Biennial Conference (CERF2015) (Portland, Oregon, USA, 8-12 November 2015)

Theme: Grand Challenges in Estuarine and Coastal Science: Securing our Future

The CERF 2015 scientific program offers four days of timely, exciting and diverse information on a vast array of estuarine and coastal subjects. Presentations will examine new findings within CERF's traditional scientific, education and management disciplines and encourage interaction among coastal and estuarine scientists and managers. Additionally, the Scientific Program Committee plans to convene special sessions and workshops that promote intellectually stimulating discussions of the Grand Challenges in Coastal and Estuarine Science:

Managing and mitigating the risks of climate change – *shifts in precipitation and hydrologic patterns; wetland and species migrations; sea level rise; drought and water scarcity; severe storms, etc.*

Synergistic effects of ocean acidification with hypoxia, eutrophication or other conditions – *synthesis of information (e.g., from 2013 CERF) with new research results and methods for mitigating effects*

Polar estuaries and coasts – *physical oceanography, ice cover, biogeochemical interactions and impacts to coastal ecosystems*

Making data work – *advancement, management and integration of modern datasets (observing, genomics, bioinformatics) and capabilities to yield predictive models and tools*

Cities by the sea – *scientific exploration of dense and growing populations, economies and the built environment on coastal ecosystems; success stories from green infrastructure*

Estuaries under threat – *environmental change and variability associated with population growth, resource acquisition and scarcity, war/conflict, biodiversity loss and interactions in the next 50 years*

Multiple uses – *managing multiple, conflicting uses of coastal resources across the natural and sociological continuum; integration, quantification and valuation of ecosystem goods and services*

The Scientific Program Committee for CERF's 23rd Biennial Conference is now accepting proposals for scientific sessions and workshops. Ideas for topics and speakers will be accepted through 12 September 2014. Proposals will only be accepted online. A formal Call for Scientific Sessions and Workshop Proposals is now posted on the CERF website. Some examples include:

managing and mitigating the risks of climate change;
synergistic effects of ocean acidification with hypoxia, eutrophication or other conditions;
polar estuaries and coasts;
making data work;
cities by the sea;
estuaries under threat; and
multiple uses of coastal resources.

CERF 2015 sessions will include oral, poster and combined oral/poster formats. Those making submissions should be prepared to either act as a convener or chair of the session/workshop they are proposing, or identify an appropriate chair.

for more information, visit <http://www.erf.org/cerf2015>

SEAGRASS-WATCH on YouTube

Seagrass: Pastures of the sea <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66Y5vgswj20> or
<http://www.seagrasswatch.org/seagrass.html>

Presentation on what seagrasses are and why they are important (over 37,177 views to date)

...seagrass matters blog

World Seagrass Association blog <http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/blog/>

Keep up to date on what's happening around the world from the WSA with regular updates from WSA President Dr Richard Unsworth and *notes from the field* by Siti Yaakub.

www.seagrasswatch.org

FROM HQ

Past E-bulletins <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/publications.html#ebulletin>

Frequently Asked Questions <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/faq.html>

Seagrass-Watch Magazine <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/magazine.html>

Virtual Herbarium <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/herbarium.html>

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

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

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