



Seagrass-Watch E-Bulletin

30 April 2017

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NEWS

Legends tell of dugong curses (Japan)

19 April 2017, Ryukyushimpo

"If you harass a mermaid you will be cursed." The dugong was a model for the legends of mermaids and is a designated for special protection in Japan. There is much folklore about the dugong in Okinawa, and in every tale it is said that harming a dugong will invite misfortune. In Oura Bay in Nago, where traces of dugong feeding have been confirmed, there are plans to begin construction on land reclamation work in conjunction with the construction of a new base in nearby Henoko, and dugong lovers are expressing concern.

Oura Bay and Cape Henoko in Nago are known as one of the dugong's few habitats. However, according to surveys conducted by the Okinawa Defense Bureau in conjunction with the new base construction, no dugong have been seen there since massive concrete blocks were sunk to the bottom of Oura Bay in January 2015.

Takeshi Kohara, an author who wrote a section about dugong-related legends in the book "Illustrated Encyclopedia of Ryukyu Yokai", says "It is also said that the 1771 Great Yaeyama Tsunami was divine punishment brought about by a dugong. If we threaten their living environment, there could be consequences." Kiyomi Oshiro, 67, of Nago says she has heard tales of the dugong since she was a small child. "Who will benefit from purposely harassing [dugongs] and destroying their habitat? If human arrogance goes too far, we will pay the consequences someday," says Oshiro.
[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Burdekin farmers improving local wetlands to help the reef (Australia)

26 April 2017, QLD Government Media Statements

A new \$300,000 project in the Burdekin will see cane farmers improving the health of local wetlands to help the Great Barrier Reef. Minister for the Great Barrier Reef Steven Miles said the Connecting cane farmers to local wetlands project would be run by NQ Dry Tropics NRM and its partners. Mr Miles said the Queensland Government was pleased to fund the project.

NQ Dry Tropics NRM CEO, Dr Scott Crawford, said that healthy wetlands were essential for a healthy Reef. Mr Miles said the project was part of a funding pool of \$1.22 million dedicated to help the Great Barrier Reef through four science projects. The other projects are similarly focussed, and look to help manage sediment and nutrient losses in priority reef catchment areas of the Burdekin, Fitzroy and Mackay Whitsundays. Mr Miles said the tenders were a part of the continued investment in research, development and innovation projects by the Office of Great Barrier Reef.

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Seagrass Survey event to host nature-themed activities (FL, USA)

24 April 2017, Bradenton Herald

While the chance has sailed to volunteer to collect seagrass data in Sarasota Bay, the third Seagrass Survey will still give the public an opportunity to learn hands-on about the underwater habitat.

As volunteers gear up to paddle through Sarasota Bay to count and identify its seagrass species early Saturday, the public is invited to participate in free nature-themed activities at the Sarasota Sailing Squadron next to Ken Thompson Park. The activities include scallop shell necklace crafts, dip-netting, mini reef ball decorating, a demonstration on fixing fishing nets and games for children. Live music will play in the area and food will be available for purchase.

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Climate change threatens fish supply (Philippines)

25 April 2017, Malaya

The 56 percent of Filipinos who live in coastal areas consume 43 kg a year; those inland consume 23 kg per annum. Marine resources, in fact, contribute up to 36 percent to food supply. The figures – and the warning – come from Dr. Vincent Hilomen, executive director for Priority Programs, Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Already, Philippine coral reefs are degraded, the seed source for seaweeds is declining, seagrass beds are heavily stressed and mangroves are degraded, he said during the Regional Scientific Conference hosted by the National Academy of Science and Technology. Hilomen said local marine invertebrate resources like shells and mollusks are in a declining state, as are demersal or bottom dwelling fish, small pelagic fish in the mid-layer of the sea, sharks and rays. Only tuna, except for bigeye tuna, is in a stable condition, he said.

Sea level rise, together with groundwater pumping, may enhance salt water intrusion that "may eventually lead to lowland agriculture failure. Agricultural failure may also lead to the movement of farmers to coastal areas, creating additional pressure on coastal fisheries, Hilomen added. One of the worst perennial threats is coastal sedimentation which can make the water turbid, making it difficult for seagrass to grow, Hilomen said.

To prevent or mitigate the loss of fish habitat, spawning, nursery and feeding grounds of fish need to be identified and protected, he said. Studies have shown that areas with mangrove, seagrass and coral reefs perform better as refuge and should be given priority. To help mitigate the flooding of low lying areas due to sea level rise, Hilomen said areas vulnerable to flooding must be mapped.

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Seagrass meadow research project aided by app launch (UK)

24 April 2017, BBC News

Marine conservationists have launched an app to encourage the public to identify and monitor underwater seagrass meadows. Research by Project Seagrass, formed by scientists from Cardiff University and Swansea University, has shown the meadows are in a "perilous state". It is hoped people will use the app to help scientists with monitoring, conservation and education efforts.

"The app provides ocean enthusiasts around the world with an opportunity to become citizen scientists who contribute to marine conservation with just a few taps of their phone", said Benjamin Jones, project co-founder and research assistant at Cardiff University's Sustainable Places Research Institute.

The team hopes to create a more comprehensive picture of seagrass meadows around the globe. It hopes it will inspire new scientific research and conservation measures that can help protect ocean habitats.

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

Researching the demise of the dugong (Sri Lanka)

22 April, China Daily

Channa Suraweera was shocked when the picture of a dead dugong jumped into his eyes for the first time. Seeing the thick red vestige under its nose indicated how blood would have spurted through its nostrils, says Suraweera, an officer with the Wildlife Conservation Department in Sri Lanka. Three dugong deaths have been reported since the beginning of this year, all by Sri Lankan Navy.

Since January 2015, Arjan Rajasuriya, of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, has been part of a project in which the United Nations Environment Program teams up with regional and international NGOs and the Sri Lankan government in an effort to protect the endangered species. But if the dugong is to be protected properly a lot more needs to be learned about the animal, which is notorious for its reclusiveness. Among the main goals of the program, known as the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, is to map seagrass meadows, the sole habitat and source of food for the vegetarian marine mammal that lives in the shallow seawater off the coast. One crucial factor behind the dramatic decrease of dugongs is the destruction of seagrass meadows, often by bottom trawling. Another factor is fishing. Fishermen may not be aiming for the dugong, but a dugong caught accidentally by the fishnet has a slim chance of survival.

For the past few months the Wildlife Conservation Department has been promoting a mobile app that enables users to take a picture of a dugong wherever they see it and then report the sighting directly to the department. The app can be downloaded by any mobile using the Android system. The Oceans Research & Conservation Association team is also trying to track down dugongs with the help of modern technology, sonar for example. Once a moving object of roughly a dugong's size is detected, the team sends underwater divers, or a drone, to verify it. Both the sonar and the drone can also be used for mapping seagrass meadows.

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Spreading seagrass die-off raises worries about health, future of Biscayne Bay (FL, USA)

21 April 2017, Miami Herald

Something is wrong in the north end of Biscayne Bay, where - despite decades of dredging and boat traffic and polluted stormwater runoff - thick meadows of seagrass once kept water gin clear and filled with marine life. Nearly half the basin's manatee grass has died. Many of the fish have fled. And on windy days, or with every passing Cigarette boat, mud swirls up from the bottom. It's essentially a dust bowl, only underwater. Efforts are now underway to launch a rescue mission. County environmental regulators are finishing up a study to present to commissioners.

Perhaps because it so urban, the conditions in the bay have received little attention, compared to even-worse problems in Florida Bay, the Indian River and other algae-plagued coastal waters farther up the coast. But among environmentalists, local regulators, the marine industry and business interests in Miami-Dade, there is growing concern that too little is being done to assess and address the problems - beginning with the basic step of monitoring changes in water quality in the bay. The South Florida Water Management District, amid ongoing budget cuts, eliminated about 30 percent of the bay's monitoring stations in 2014, leaving the county to scramble to find money to maintain both water quality monitoring and seagrass tracking.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, fearful that the bay had reached a "tipping point," also designated the bay a special focus area to corral its resources in 2014. But so far, funding has been limited, said Joan Browder, the NOAA biologist based on Virginia Key serving as chief investigator on the project. Earlier this year, Browder applied for more funding, but it's unclear whether NOAA, which has been targeted by the administration of President Donald Trump for cuts, will follow through.

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Dugongs make Gold Coast waters home (QLD, Australia)

17 April 2017, *Gold Coast Bulletin*

A number of dugongs are making their home in Gold Coast waters, much to the delight of marine experts. A herd of the roly-poly marine mammals has been living in the Broadwater near Crabb Island for almost six months. It is not known what prompted the southern move from Moreton Island but Sea World marine sciences director Trevor Long said he was surprised and pleased.

On Saturday, Gold Coaster Mark Bustin captured footage of one of the dugongs frolicking in front of his houseboat for about 20 minutes. The vulnerable species is threatened due to boat strikes, illegal hunting and habitat destruction.

Mr Long said global dugong (sea cow) populations had been declining and the species was listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). "People need to be aware that dugongs are in the area and if people can avoid riding jet skis in the shallow waters, where the dugongs feed on the grass beds, that will help," Mr Long said.

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Entsch cops backlash (Australia)

16 April 2017, *Geelong Advertiser*

Warren Entsch was right to expect a backlash to his comments about indigenous fishers exploiting native title law to use massive gill nets in net-free zones. The Leichhardt MP went on the offensive last week after Cairns fishers complained reports of suspected illegal fishing in Trinity Inlet were not being investigated due to skin colour. He came out arguing commercial nets should be banned for everyone in a net-free zone, including traditional owners.

Mr Entsch said wildlife activists like Colin Riddell from the Bob Irwin Wildlife and Conservation Foundation wanted him to go even further in his criticism, so he anticipated being "flogged from both sides". He was right about Mr Riddell. The Cairns-based former abattoir worker calls himself "The Dugong Man" and has dedicated much of his life to protecting animal rights. He wants dugong hunting banned outright and the closure of a land rights loophole that allows the use of enormous commercial nets in restricted fishing areas. Mr Riddell criticised Mr Entsch for passing blame to the State Government and failing to report his professed huge catches being sold illegally in remote Far North communities.

Indigenous fishing remains a touchy topic in Canberra, with the Australian Crime Commission handing over a report that found "no substantive evidence" of illegal dugong and turtle meat trade in Queensland. The findings have still not been publicly released, although Mr Entsch believed the \$2 million investigation was flawed.

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Dugong habitats shrink by a quarter (UAE)

13 April 2017, *The National*

Scientists warn that their numbers could fall further unless Gulf countries adopt a coordinated plan to safeguard dugongs and their feeding grounds after research shows only the UAE has legal protection plan in place. Researchers have called for stronger international efforts to protect the Arabian Gulf's dugongs after their work revealed that the areas where the creatures are found has shrunk by a quarter. The scientists have highlighted that the UAE is the only Gulf nation to properly protect the seagrass-eating mammals, numbers of which they warned could fall further.

In the journal *Zoology in the Middle East*, Dr Al Abdulrazzak and Prof Daniel Pauly, both based at Vancouver's University of British Columbia, said that their analysis of records of dugong distribution showed that dugongs were once found more widely in the Gulf than thought. The scientists, who looked at papers dating back to the 1800s, found that dugongs once inhabited the seas off Kuwait and Iran. Dugongs recorded off Iran now are considered "vagrant". By reconstructing past distributions, the researchers have calculated that the dugong range in the Gulf has shrunk by about 26 per cent, falling from a high of 41,236 square kilometres to 30,606 square kilometres. This indicates that the Gulf population has shrunk more than thought. Although the Gulf dugong population is the world's second largest, estimated at about 7,300 individuals, the researchers said the density is much lower than for dugongs in some other areas.

The study highlights threats from dredging, trawling and land reclamation, all of which damage seagrass habitats, and bycatch and oil spills. The researchers stated that "dugongs in the Gulf are only offered protection in the waters of the United Arab Emirates", this coming from a federal law and an Emiri decree. A memorandum of understanding on the conservation and management of dugongs and their habitats was launched in Abu Dhabi in 2007 and is managed by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) office in Abu Dhabi. Among states bordering the Gulf, only the UAE and Saudi Arabia are signatories.

"It is very likely that the Gulf states share the same population of dugongs, so it is critical that all the Gulf range states (Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE) cooperate to protect dugongs and their seagrass meadows. The CMS dugong memorandum can help this cooperation," said Donna Kwan, CMS programme officer for dugongs. She said one of the biggest challenges was not to enforce legal protection of dugongs but to identify why they are still at risk and find ways to reduce threats.

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Islands of Perdido Foundation launches Save Our Seagrass campaign (USA)

12 April 2017, Mulletwrapper

The Alabama Coastal Foundation (ACF), City of Orange Beach, Islands of Perdido Foundation hosted a press conference on the waters off Bird Island to officially designate Friday, April 7, 2017 as Orange Beach Seagrass Day. The purpose of the day is to bring attention to the Islands of Perdido Foundation's Save Our Seagrass education campaign. The campaign centers around raising awareness of the value and needed protection of the vital seagrass beds in the area.

A main focus of the Save Our Seagrass campaign is educating people about avoiding these sensitive habitat areas while out recreating via putting out new signage at boat launches, working with area boat and jet ski rental companies, and lessons plans taught in local 5th grade classrooms. The aim is to ensure existing seagrass is protected and conserved, and hopefully even increased. The designation is a special reminder of Orange Beach's valuable seagrass habitat and all the benefits it provides our community, as well as the great responsibility of preserving it for future generations.

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Dugong numbers off Trang up again despite smaller seagrass areas (Thailand)

11 April 2017, The Nation

The number of dugongs in the sea off Trang has risen to a decade high of 169, according to a recent survey of the "sea cow" population by the Marine and Coastal Resources Research and Development Centre. Centre director Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, who headed the expert team that carried out the survey from March 24 to 30, said if the authorities could keep the dugong fatality rate at under five deaths a year the population would grow to at least 200 dugongs in four years.

The experts took gyroplane trips and used a drone to count and determine the approximate number of dugongs in an effort to conserve these rare mammals. This year's tally of 169 is a gradual increase from 160 dugongs in 2016, 145 in 2015, and 135 in 2014. The latest aerial survey found more than 10 pairs of dugong mothers and calves – a positive sign that joint efforts to conserve them have made progress. Kongkiat thanked local fishing communities for helping by not using dangerous fishing gear. However, the team still found one dugong with its tail entangled in a seine fishing net – the same one spotted last year – near Koh Libong, he said.

Thailand's last and largest dugong herd was in the seagrass fields around Koh Libong, which have shrunk sharply, from 12,173 square rai in 2006 to 7,306 square rai in 2011. These fields have been decimated by large cargo ships that ply the main shipping route near the island as well as increased sediment levels. The drop in seagrass meadows, plus fishermen's use of dangerous tools, have contributed to the dugong herd's decline.

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Sri Lanka Navy arrests two people transporting 82 Kg of dugong meat (Sri Lanka)

10 April 2017, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka Navy personnel, acting on a tip off have arrested two people, who were transporting 82 kilograms of dugong (sea hog) meat. The naval personnel attached to the North Central Naval Command Sunday apprehended the two suspects who were illegally transporting the dugong meat at Oluthuduwai in the North.

During the arrest, the Navy personnel have recovered 82 Kg dugong meat and three knives in possession of the suspects. The apprehended suspects and seized goods were handed over to the Wildlife Department for further investigations.

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

Excitement among locals as fisher nets rare creature in Kwale (Kenya)

06 April 2017, SDE Entertainment News

A carcass of the endangered dugong has been trapped by a fisherman's net in Mwaembe village, Kwale, sparking excitement among locals and marine experts. Marine scientists said the endangered species, which was caught on Tuesday, had not been sighted in Kenya's coastal waters for years. About 30 dugongs are believed to live in these waters but a recent census found none.

Hassan Juma, the fisherman who netted the dead dugong, said it got entangled in a fishing net that he had set the night before. When he looked closely, he saw the animal, which he had never seen before and alerted elders who helped him to drag it offshore. Bakari Hamis, the chairperson of Mwaembe Beach Management Unit, said locals wanted to eat the mammal, which is a protected species. Mchambi Juma, a Mwaembe village resident who demanded to be given a piece of the fish, said the last time the animal was sighted in the area was in 1975.

Dr Judith Nyunja, head of research in the Kenya Wildlife Service Coast conservation area, said dugongs were rarely found in East Africa's coastal line. She said the animal would be kept in a museum in Mombasa. According to the Wildlife Act, anyone found with the mammal should be fined Sh20 million or be imprisoned for life. And as the animal was loaded onto a boat to start its journey to Shimoni and then Mombasa, Mwaembe residents were disappointed for being denied a chance to taste the fish, which one of the oldest residents termed the best food ever.

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

Your Food Will Now Be Packed In Biodegradable Seagrass Packaging

05 April 2017, Industry Leaders Magazine

The world is developing at a high velocity and people are getting busier with their fast-paced lives. Due to time constraints, more companies are releasing ready-to-make, pre-cooked, ready-to-eat, or packaged snacks and beverages; leading to a surged usage of such products among consumers. With such change in life-styles and food-habits, more packaged food items are now available in the market. With the ever-increasing market of packaging foods, concerns about a sustainable environment are also on a rise. Governments around the world have started pressing on biodegradable and sustainable packaging technologies, in place of plastic packaging. Keeping all such factors in mind, an art student of Royal College, Felix Pottinger created an alternative for plastic food packages, with the use of seagrass.

Pottinger's design uses washed-up seagrass, although his official site states that the project is still in its development stage. The seagrass-based concept of food packaging material reduces the packaging waste as well as prolongs food-durability. Pottinger's project partners are his college – The Royal College of Art, Microsoft Research Lab, and Tesco. Pottinger, a German designer, says that the seagrass-based material is not only fully biodegradable, but it also has antibacterial properties to keep the packaged food fresh.

The Royal College student says that the material used is a natural waste, and that according to his research it has an extreme resistance against mould. For the packaging process, a cellulose based extract is utilized to bind the dried seagrass fiber together. The mixture is then pressed in a metal mould after which it is baked till it dries entirely. Felix also says that he uses the seagrass fiber from the beaches of the Mediterranean Coast only; and thus there is not industrial harvesting which can harm the seagrass or any water creatures. As of now, Pottinger has created only prototype POC packaging containers.

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

Seagrasses in World Heritage Site Not Recovered Years After Heat Wave (WA, Australia)

05 April 2017, Newswise

Massive seagrass beds in Western Australia's Shark Bay — a UNESCO World Heritage Site — haven't recovered much from the devastating heat wave of 2011, according to a new study demonstrating how certain vital ecosystems may change drastically in a warming climate. The peer-reviewed study, published recently in Marine Ecology Progress Series, was led by Dr. Rob Nowicki, a Mote Marine Laboratory Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

The researchers surveyed 63 sites in Shark Bay four times between 2012 and 2014 to assess seagrass recovery and changes. Before the heat wave, many sites were dominated by the temperate seagrass known as "wireweed" (*Amphibolis antarctica*), whose dense and tall thickets provide ample food and shelter for numerous species. The heat wave drastically thinned many wireweed beds, and in many places their rhizomes (underground stems) blackened and died, leaving bare sand. The new study showed that surviving *A. antarctica* beds appeared stable but didn't reclaim much turf. Instead, the tropical seagrass *Halodule uninervis* began filling the gaps. *H. uninervis* was spotted at 2 percent of sites in 2012, but had expanded to almost 30 percent of them by 2014. Losing that much structure has consequences. "After the die-off, we also saw water clarity go down a ton," Nowicki said. Fewer seagrasses were available to trap sediments, and decaying seagrass may have nourished a bloom of microscopic algae observed in 2014.

In Shark Bay, beds of slow-growing *A. antarctica* seagrass may struggle to recover further, the study suggests. Shark Bay, located where temperate and tropical ecosystems overlap, is among the warmest areas that *A. antarctica* can occupy, and extreme warm temperatures are predicted to become more common with climate change. It's critical to continue investigating how the recent loss of some seagrass, a basis of the marine food web, will affect plant-eating animals and their predators in Shark Bay. Some take-home messages are clear: It's critical to monitor ecosystems well after a disturbance; they're not guaranteed to bounce back. Nowicki says that minimizing local stressors, such as

nutrient pollution from fertilizer runoff into bays and estuaries, may give seagrasses better odds amid climate change and other global stressors.

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

Shock as vandals damage eco friendly mooring in Tor Bay within days of it being installed (UK)

03 April 2017, Devon Live

Vandals have damaged a new eco mooring system in Tor Bay within days of it being installed. The specially designed mooring had been installed last week in an idyllic cove near Brixham in a move to preserve a hidden Devon wildlife habitat considered as important as coral reef. Large parts of Tor Bay are designated a protected marine conversation zone. This includes beds of seagrass. The areas of seagrass provide a nursery area for many commercially important species such as pollock, scallops and cuttle fish to grow up, but also provide a home to the UK's charming native seahorses. However these fragile habitats are particularly sensitive to being damaged by the anchors of moored up boats. Mooring chains in particular can cause a lot of damage to the beds.

Now the new design of mooring has been created which will still allowing boat users to enjoy the beauty and sanctuary of Fishcombe Cove near Brixham. But over the weekend vandals cut the ropes attaching the chains to buoys used for mooring and the chains have dropped to the seabed. Some buoys have been stolen which means chains could be scraping around the seabed with the weather and tides damaging the delicate seagrass. Members of the Sea Torbay Coastal Management Partnership had only just celebrated the arrival of the new eco friendly (Seagrass) mooring arrive at its new home at Fishcombe Cove.

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

Manatee Removed From Endangered Species List (USA)

01 April 2017, Brevard Times

The U.S. Department of the Interior announced on Thursday the downlisting of the West Indian manatee from endangered to threatened. Notable increases in manatee populations and improvements in its habitat allowed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to change the species' status under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The downlisting means that the manatee is no longer considered in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, but is likely to become so in the foreseeable future without continued ESA protections. Reclassification of manatees has been pending since 2007, when the USFWS first announced its intention to move manatees from the endangered list — meaning they were in imminent danger of extinction — to the “threatened” list, meaning they possibly could become at risk of extinction in the foreseeable future.

Today's estimated population of 6,620 Florida manatees is a dramatic turnaround from the 1970s, when just a few hundred individuals remained. But the manatees' continued high population count could spell trouble for the dying Indian River Lagoon. That's because an 800 to 1,200 pound adult sea cow can eat up 10% to 15% of its body weight daily in aquatic vegetation which mostly consists of seagrass. For the first time in the decades-long debate between manatee activists and the boating community, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) acknowledged that the increased manatee population does have an effect on nutrient load and seagrass loss in the Indian River Lagoon following a Brevard Times investigation in 2014.

“Manatees should actually be classed as a “recovered” species — meaning they are neither endangered nor threatened, and not listed within the ESA,” said Robert Atkins, president of Citizens For Florida's Waterways, a Brevard County-based advocacy group for recreational boaters. But the Save the Manatee Club contends that the declassification was premature and blames the Trump administration.

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

CONFERENCES

Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation 24th Biennial Conference (CERF2017) (Providence, Rhode Island, USA, 5-9 November 2017)

Theme: Coastal Science at the Inflection Point: Celebrating Successes & Learning from Challenges

The CERF 2017 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 science, 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. Join us and over a thousand of your colleagues to network, celebrate our work, learn from each other and grow within our amazing profession.

Important Dates:

Early Bird Registration Deadline: 15 May 2017

Student Travel Award Application Deadline: 4 August 2017

Presenter Confirmation/Registration Deadline: 5 September 2017

Registration Deadline: 5 September 2017

Advance Registration Deadline: 6 October 2017
for more information, visit <http://www.erf.org/cerf-2017-biennial-conference>

The 13th International Seagrass Biology Workshop (ISBW13) and World Seagrass Conference (June 2018, Singapore)

Theme: Under pressure – Seagrass science and conservation in stressful environments

The International Seagrass Biology Workshop (ISBW) is the only international meeting specifically tailored to seagrass scientists, professionals and students. The International Seagrass Biology Workshop (ISBW) provides a good opportunity for the scientists working on various aspects of seagrass ecosystems to come together and discuss their latest findings. The ISBW13 will be held in June 2018 at the National University of Singapore, Singapore, organized by National University of Singapore, National Parks Board, and DHI Water & Environment, Singapore.

More information:

To get important updates on ISBW13, register your interest here: <https://goo.gl/forms/T1lhDGhEx71m0tcj1>
Follow on Facebook @ISBW13 and Twitter #ISBW13

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 45,211 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.

FROM HQ

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

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

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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