



Seagrass-Watch e-Bulletin

Midge Pt, Queensland, Australia

31 October 2020

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NEWS

Maya Bay dugong dies from suspected boat propeller wound (Thailand)

28 October 2020, by Tanyaluk SakootThe Phuket News

A young female dugong found at Maya Bay died while being transported back to the Phuket Marine Biological Centre (PMBC) yesterday (Oct 27). National park officers conducting a routine patrol spotted the injured dugong at Maya Bay at about 9:35am on Monday (Oct 26), explained Prayoon Phongphan, Chief of the Hat Noppharat Thara – Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park. The officers called in marine life experts from the PMBC, but attempts to catch the young dugong failed, he added.

[more.....https://www.thephuketnews.com/maya-bay-dugong-dies-from-suspected-boat-propeller-wound-77797.php](https://www.thephuketnews.com/maya-bay-dugong-dies-from-suspected-boat-propeller-wound-77797.php)

Dugong dismembered, sharks mutilated on Townsville beach, sparking investigation (QLD, Australia)

29 October 2020, by Chloe Chomicki and Jake Kearnan, ABC North Qld

Authorities are investigating the discovery of a deceased dugong which had been dismembered at the Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park. A resident alerted Queensland Parks and Wildlife about the dead mammal, which is a protected species, on Wednesday morning. QPWS said it believed the dugong was killed and dismembered at the site, where several mutilated sharks were also found.

The discovery outraged a local conservationist, who said the "horrible" behaviour was unheard of in the Townsville region. Simon Cheers from the North Queensland Conservation Council said he believed it was widely understood that dugongs were protected.

[more.....https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-10-29/investigation-after-dugong-dismembered-on-townsville-beach/12825308](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-10-29/investigation-after-dugong-dismembered-on-townsville-beach/12825308)

CQUniversity projects receive \$55,000 in grants (QLD, Australia)

29 October 2020, Bundaberg Now

Two CQUniversity projects to be implemented in the Bundaberg Region have received more than \$55,000 in combined grants. Assisted by the Queensland Government's Queensland Citizen Science Grants, CQU's Coastal Marine Ecosystems Research Centre (CMERC) received \$29,573 for their project Sea Flowers: growing community engagement for seagrass restoration, while CQUni-led initiative Parasites in the Wild received \$26,134.

CMERC Director Associate Professor Emma Jackson was thrilled to receive the funds to help boost their current seagrass restoration work while engaging with communities along the Queensland coast. "Through citizen science, we are able to involve local people, voluntary organisations and apprenticeship schemes to become involved in the non-destructive collection of seagrass flowers." She explained that the project will be implemented at intertidal seagrass banks within Gladstone, Bundaberg and the Sunshine Coast. "The seagrass flowers will be used in seed storage, germination, viability and restoration by seed studies while educating and promoting the value of these habitats to the local community."

Citizen scientists provide valuable data and skills that might otherwise have not been available to scientists, which increases scientific knowledge and leads to better informed results all the while empowering the local community.

[more.....https://www.bundabergnow.com/2020/10/29/cquniversity-projects-received-55000-in-grants/](https://www.bundabergnow.com/2020/10/29/cquniversity-projects-received-55000-in-grants/)

NSYSU touts joint study on seagrass for coastal ecosystem protection (Taiwan)

26 October 2020, by Wang Shwu-feng and Evelyn Kao, Focus Taiwan News Channel

A study conducted by Taiwan's National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU) and University of Ruhunain in Sri Lanka on a genus of seagrass, was published in an international journal last month, NSYSU said in a statement Monday.

The study conducted by NSYSU and University of Ruhuna from 2018-2020, found genetic identification and hybridization of the seagrass genus *Halophila* in Sri Lankan waters for the first time. It provides valuable insight into the distribution and diversity of seagrasses in Sri Lankan waters before local extinctions occur. This also gives Taiwan a good reference for seagrass protection and restoration, including setting up seagrass protection zones in the offshore Penghu Islands, Gaomei wetland preservation area in Taichung and Qigu salt field wetlands in Tainan, according to NSYSU.

The study was published in the Sept. 30 edition of PeerJ, an open access peer-reviewed biological, medical and environmental sciences journal in the United States, according to the statement.

[more.....https://focustaiwan.tw/society/202010260014](https://focustaiwan.tw/society/202010260014)

Related articles

Joint research could aid conservation of seagrass (27 October 2020, Taipei Times)
<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2020/10/27/2003745874>

Why we must conserve the world's seagrasses (India)

19 October 2020, by V Sundararaju, Down To Earth Magazine

Seagrasses are flowering plants that grow submerged in shallow marine waters like bays and lagoons. Seagrasses evolved from terrestrial plants that recolonised the ocean 70-100 million years ago. There are 60 species belonging to four families in the order Alismatales. Seagrasses occur all along the coastal areas of India. They are abundant in the Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu.

Though seagrasses inhabit all types of substratas from mud to rock, the lush green seagrass beds are found extensively in muddy and sandy substratas. Seagrasses abound in the Gulf of Mannar waters around the islands of Kurusadi, Pumarichan, Pullivasal and Thalaiyari. All six genera and 11 species of seagrasses are found here. Some

of the important seagrasses are Sea Cow Grass (*Cymodocea serrulata*), Thready Seagrass (*Cymodocea rotundata*), Needle Seagrass (*Syringodium isoetifolium*), Flat-tipped Seagrass (*Halodule uninervis*), Spoon Seagrass (*Halophila ovalis*) and Ribbon Grass (*Enhalus acoroides*).

Seagrasses are known for providing many ecosystem services. They are considered to be 'Ecosystem Engineers'. Seagrass beds are facing decline all over the world at the rate of 2-5 per cent annually. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature should intervene immediately and study the status of the different seagrass species before they become extinct. Protection and restoration of seagrasses can play a significant role in mitigating climate change. Restoration of seagrasses has been attempted at the global level. Restoration of seagrasses has been taken up by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department in the Gulf of Mannar also and the results have been found to be encouraging. There is an urgent need to take earnest measures to conserve seagrasses and their habitats.

[more.....https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/wildlife-biodiversity/why-we-must-protect-the-world-s-seagrasses-73852](https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/wildlife-biodiversity/why-we-must-protect-the-world-s-seagrasses-73852)

Ebbing tide strands dugong (Thailand)

19 October 2020, *The Nation*

A hungry dugong was found crying for help on a beach in Trang province on Sunday after the tide ebbed and left it stranded. The animal was found on Laem To Chai beach by Libong villagers at around 7.30am. It is a 1.8-metres-long female weighing around 220 kilograms.

Chaiyapruerk Veerawong, chief of the Koh Libong Wildlife No Hunting Area, reported that villager Lerd Yodsri came to him asking for help as he was unable to move the animal on his own. When wildlife officials arrived, they found clumps of *Halophila* and other types of seagrass, which they believe drew the dugong to shallow waters and left it stranded when the tide ebbed. Lerd was awarded for his act of kindness so others can also be motivated to help save wildlife.

[more.....https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30396424?utm_source=bottom_relate&utm_medium=internal_referral](https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30396424?utm_source=bottom_relate&utm_medium=internal_referral)

Related articles

Marooned dugong sent back to sea (19 October 2020, Bangkok Post)

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2004175/marooned-dugong-sent-back-to-sea>

US Army Corps resumes Lake Okeechobee releases (FL, USA)

16 October 2020, By NATHAN MAYBERG, *Sanibel-Captiva Islander*

Due to rising lake levels, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began releases from Lake Okeechobee on Oct. 14, sending water west into the Caloosahatchee and east into the St. Lucie estuaries. Col. Andrew Kelly, commander of the Jacksonville district for the Army Corps of Engineers, said he expects the releases to last approximately a month depending on the amount of rain, heat as well as other weather-related factors. The Army Corps of Engineers has been holding off on releases as long as possible but that heavy rains since August necessitated the release.

The discharges are necessary due to rising water levels at the lake, which were at about 16.25 feet on Oct 15. Kelly said the lake rose by one foot in August, 1.25 feet in September and more than a foot so far in October. The lake has risen "more quickly than we want," Kelly said. The Army Corps of Engineers had been focusing releases south to the Everglades, but Kelly said that area is now too wet to take in all of the lake's discharges. Kelly said he expects those fishing off the Caloosahatchee estuary to see impacts to oysters. He is committed to reducing and stopping the flows "as soon as we can."

There has been concern in the past that releases from Lake Okeechobee during blue-green algae blooms could damage the water in the Gulf of Mexico. Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Environmental Policy Director James Evans said his organization is concerned about potential impacts on oysters and seagrass due to already-low salinity levels in the lower Caloosahatchee estuary and San Carlos Bay. The SCCF has sensors throughout the estuary to keep track of the salinity levels. Evans said the higher runoffs have been going on for the past 45 days and with the latest releases, that could stretch the amount of time the seagrass in the estuary can handle the additional runoff. The seagrass depends on the sun for photosynthesis and too much runoff can impact the photosynthesis process.

[more.....https://www.captivasanibel.com/2020/10/16/u-s-army-corps-resumes-lake-okeechobee-releases/](https://www.captivasanibel.com/2020/10/16/u-s-army-corps-resumes-lake-okeechobee-releases/)

Related articles

Federal Judge Orders Army Corps To Study Toxic Algae In Lake Okeechobee Releases (28 October 2020, WUSF News)

<https://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/environment/2020-10-28/federal-judge-orders-army-corps-to-study-toxic-algae-in-lake-okeechobee-releases>

Harmful Lake O discharges begin; Lake Worth Lagoon not direct target but will be affected (16 October 2020, Palm Beach Post)

<https://www.palmbeachpost.com/story/weather/2020/10/15/lake-okeechobee-too-high-discharges-begin-lake-worth-lagoon-affected/3656043001/>

Yamaha Rightwaters Supports Habitat Restoration (FL, USA)

09 October 2020, by Reagan Haynes, Trade Only Today

Yamaha Rightwaters said it helped secured an F200 outboard for AquaTech Eco Consultants, a group that focuses on coastal habitat restoration. The outboard will power AquaTech's 24-foot Carolina Skiff, which the group uses to conduct seagrass restoration projects along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, as well as the Caribbean.

"When boats run aground, they often leave prop scars and big holes," said Beau Williams, AquaTech founder and habitat restoration expert, in a statement. "It's our job to go in and restore these grounding scars by planting seagrass, which fosters the richest marine environments." "Marine habitat creation and restoration is one of the key focuses of Yamaha Rightwaters," said Yamaha government relations senior specialist John O'Keefe. "By building and maintaining environments that promote healthy marine growth, we increase the available habitat needed for greater sustainability. AquaTech continues to make significant strides in Florida to rebuild damaged marine environments." [more.....https://www.tradeonlytoday.com/tech/yamaha-rightwaters-supports-habitat-restoration](https://www.tradeonlytoday.com/tech/yamaha-rightwaters-supports-habitat-restoration)

GICIA Mercabo Cove nearing completion (FL, USA)

09 October 2020, Boca Beacon

Construction at the GICIA's Mercabo Cove site is nearing completion. TSI Disaster Recovery, the company hired to bring the Cove plans to life, is beginning to wrap up the final construction items. Construction began on March 2 and is anticipated to be completed by Halloween. The Cove project is designed to transform the basin area of the Mercabo Preserve into a marine sanctuary that will provide long-term benefits that include improved water quality, enhanced fish and bird habitat, reduced seawall maintenance costs and visually enhanced views of the preserve site.

The planting of the Mercabo Cove project will begin in the next couple of weeks. Upland plantings will include nearly 600 mangroves and many other native grasses, trees and shrubs. The entire basin has been contoured (using local dredge material) to a maximum depth of four feet to ensure the appropriate depth for seagrass planting. The GICIA is excited to be working with Sea and Shoreline to plant nearly 3,600 units of seagrass, once the water in newly restored Cove has settled. Seagrasses are sensitive to water quality and are a terrific indicator of overall health of an ecosystem, which is why GICIA is so excited about the seagrass planting. Simply put, a successful seagrass growth will be assurance that the entire Cove restoration has been a success.

Following planting, Sea and Shoreline will perform monthly maintenance as well as monitoring events to quantify seagrass survival, growth and project effectiveness.

[more.....https://bocabeacon.com/wordpress/news/gicia-mercabo-cove-nearing-completion/](https://bocabeacon.com/wordpress/news/gicia-mercabo-cove-nearing-completion/)

A ferry ran aground off Key West in 2016. Now the company owes the government \$2.2M (FL, USA)

09 October 2020, by Gwen Filosa, Miami Herald

A company that runs a ferry service from Key West to Southwest Florida has agreed to pay the government \$2.2 million after one of its boats damaged the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in 2016. Key West Express will pay \$2,246,596, according to a proposed consent decree filed at U.S. District Court in Key West. The money goes to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

NOAA is required to use it to restore injured seagrasses in the sanctuary, according to the public affairs office of the U.S. Department of Justice. Most of the settlement payment — \$2.17 million — will pay for restoration of the damaged sanctuary resources, which include a seagrass bank dominated by turtle grass seagrasses along with other seagrass species, sponges and various fish species, according to the consent decree. In addition, Key West Express will pay about \$70,000 for assessment costs incurred by NOAA.

On Dec. 27, 2016, the Big Cat Express, a 136-foot jet-powered catamaran ferry, ran aground in the sanctuary, which is managed by NOAA. The ferry, carrying 171 passengers, was on its way from Key West to Marco Island and had left at 5 p.m. A witness gave FWC photos of the grounding. "The photographs show a massive amount of sand, seagrass, and other sea bottom being sent backwards from its jet wash," the agency reported. The grounding happened at the south entrance to Lakes Passage off Key West about two miles west of Wisteria Island.

[more.....https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/florida-keys/article246288510.html](https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/florida-keys/article246288510.html)

Related articles

Florida ferry operator to pay \$2.2 million from 2016 grounding (13 October 2020, WorkBoat)
<https://www.workboat.com/news/passenger-vessels/florida-ferry-operator-to-pay-2-2-million-from-2016-grounding/>

Seagrass restoration speeds recovery of ecosystem services (VA, USA)

07 October 2020, Science Daily

The reintroduction of seagrass into Virginia's coastal bays is one of the great success stories in marine restoration. Over the past two decades, scientists and volunteers have broadcast more than 70 million eelgrass seeds within 4 previously barren seaside lagoons, spurring a natural expansion that has so far grown to almost 9,000 acres -- the single largest eelgrass habitat between North Carolina and Long Island Sound. Now, a long-term monitoring study shows this success extends far beyond a single species, rippling out to engender substantial increases in fish and invertebrate abundance, water clarity, and the trapping of pollution-causing carbon and nitrogen.

"Human activities are degrading coastal habitats worldwide," says study lead Dr. Robert "JJ" Orth of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. "Our study serves as a blueprint for restoring and maintaining healthy ecosystems to safeguard multiple benefits as we move into an uncertain future." Orth and his co-authors stress that several of the restoration benefits -- including removal of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide via burial of carbon in seafloor sediments -- were not even considered as management goals when the project began. These novel benefits provide additional impetus for future habitat restoration.

"A major challenge to restoration is determining what constitutes success," adds Orth. "Traditional metrics have focused on habitat attributes such as plant biomass, coverage, or density. But the ultimate motivation is often not to restore the habitat itself, but the services it provides, benefits such as enhanced water quality, fisheries production, and now, carbon storage. As regulatory agencies worldwide seek to conserve and recover ecosystem services, our study shows that marine restorations are possible on scales that contribute directly to human well-being."

[more.....https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/10/201007154308.htm](https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/10/201007154308.htm)

Related articles

Seagrass restoration speeds recovery of ecosystem services (08 October 2020, William & Mary News)

<https://www.wm.edu/news/stories/2020/seagrass-restoration-speeds-recovery-of-ecosystem-services.php>

Seagrass success goes beyond the lagoons (09 October 2020, Cosmos)

<https://cosmosmagazine.com/earth/sustainability/seagrass-success-goes-beyond-the-lagoons/>

How planting 70 million eelgrass seeds led to an ecosystem's rapid recovery (14 October 2020, Science News)

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/seagrass-restoration-project-virginia-ecosystem-rapid-recovery>

Seagrasses restored to Virginia bays are flourishing (20 October 2020, National Science Foundation)

https://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=301462

Restoring seagrasses can bring coastal bays back to life (20 October 2020, The Conversation US)

<https://theconversation.com/restoring-seagrasses-can-bring-coastal-bays-back-to-life-147798>

Scientists Restore Seagrasses and Rejuvenate Marine Life in Coastal Bays (20 October 2020, Nature World News)

<https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/44602/20201021/scientists-restore-seagrasses-rejuvenate-marine-life-coastal-bays.htm>

Restoring seagrasses can bring coastal bays back to life (24 October 2020, Red, Green, and Blue)

<https://redgreenandblue.org/2020/10/24/restoring-seagrasses-can-bring-coastal-bays-back-life/>

Invasive species storming, seagrass spreading, Alps melting: 3 stories you may have missed (26 October 2020, Conservation International)

<https://www.conservation.org/blog/invasive-species-storming-seagrass-spreading-alps-melting-3-stories-you-may-have-missed>

World's Largest Seagrass Restoration Project is a Virginia Success, Planting 600 Acres That Grow to Become 9,000 (28 October 2020, Good News Network)

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/largest-seagrass-meadow-restoration-in-the-world-in-virginia/>

Seagrass meadows: oases of life (China)

06 October 2020, by Liu Lebin, Lin Xiaoshu, Li Yuqiang, ChinaDialogue Ocean

In China, public awareness of two key coastal ecosystems – mangrove forests and coral reefs – has risen. But a third, seagrass meadows, still goes largely unnoticed. This is partly because very few seagrass meadows have been recorded in the country. As of 2014, only 87.6 km² had been identified along the Chinese coast, with 80 km² of that area in the South China Sea. Then, in 2015, exciting news emerged from northeast China's Bohai Sea – a 10 km² meadow had been found off Caofeidian, a district of Tangshan. In September 2019, a survey by the Ministry of Natural Resources expanded the total seagrass coverage in the area to 50 km².

Seagrass has long been an essential part of local life on China's northern coast. The best illustration of this is perhaps the "seagrass houses" of the Shandong peninsula. Dried eelgrass is used as thatch, providing both insulation and protection from the rain. This building technique is listed as a provincial-level "non-tangible cultural heritage". But only scattered patches of seagrass remain in Shandong's waters. This makes the Caofeidian meadows all the more important. But China's seagrass meadows are shrinking. Losses have been particularly severe in Yingluogang, in the Guangxi county of Hepu – from 2.67km² in 1994 to 0.32km² in 2000. The seagrass meadows further north have fared similarly. In response to these losses, there are some moves to restore and protect seagrass meadows in China. The first phase of a plan to protect a section of the Caofeidian meadows was given expert approval last year. The project has begun with the restoration of 3km², with a long-term goal of restoring 200km².

Restoration is normally achieved through artificial planting. To increase efficiency, an interesting and relatively cheap new method of sowing called "clam planting" has recently emerged. Using sticky rice, seagrass seeds are attached to

the shells of clams, which are then returned to the water, carrying the seeds with them when they burrow back into the seabed. This has proved to be a highly effective way to restore meadows. In June this year, seagrass meadows were included in a 2021-2035 national plan for the protection and restoration of important ecosystems. This plan promises “comprehensive protection of natural coastlines, strict controls on human threats such as overfishing, and promotion of systematic protection and restoration for river mouths, bays, coastal wetlands and ocean ecosystems such as mangrove forest, coral reefs and seagrass meadows.”

[more.....https://chinadialogueocean.net/15310-seagrass-meadows-oases-of-life/](https://chinadialogueocean.net/15310-seagrass-meadows-oases-of-life/)

An app to help protect seagrass in the Mediterranean (Monaco)

30 September 2020, by Lola Senoble, Monaco Tribune

Andromède Oceanologie, a research body founded by a group of marine biologists, has just launched a free app called “Donia”. The app allows yachtsmen and fishermen to know the exact nature of the seabed, in order to anchor boats without damaging the seabed. Amongst the most fragile components of Mediterranean biodiversity is seagrass.

The plant is of vital importance for the Mediterranean, but sea traffic threatens it. Every year, several hectares of seagrass are destroyed by ships who anchor where they shouldn't. To help fight this trend, researchers at Andromède Océanologie – coincidentally the same researchers who are behind the Gombessa 5 expedition – launched “Donia”, a community-based app which facilitates sustainable sailing and anchorage.

The app is available on smartphone and tablet. The user can load the area's cartography, which clearly identifies the nature of the seabed, the bathymetry, any sea-regulations in place, as well as the location of ports and, more importantly, appropriate anchorage areas. Through accurate data, yachts and fish-boats can anchor outside areas populated by seagrass, therefore complying with maritime law and preserving marine ecosystems.

[more.....https://www.monaco-tribune.com/en/2020/09/an-app-to-help-protect-seagrass-in-the-mediterranean/](https://www.monaco-tribune.com/en/2020/09/an-app-to-help-protect-seagrass-in-the-mediterranean/)

CONFERENCES

The 14th International Seagrass Biology Workshop (ISBW14) (Annapolis, Maryland, USA Summer 2022)

Theme: " Signs of Success "

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 an excellent opportunity for the scientists working on various aspects of seagrass ecosystems to come together and discuss their latest findings.

The ISBW14 Chesapeake Bay will be held in Summer 2021 at the Graduate Annapolis Hotel, Annapolis, Maryland. This will be the first time ISBW has been hosted in the U.S.A. and the iconic Chesapeake Bay is the logical setting. Chesapeake Bay is an iconic estuary with a strong scientific and management history. The resurgence of seagrasses (including brackish water submersed aquatic vegetation) in the bay is the largest documented in the world, and clearly a "sign of success" to inspire seagrass scientists globally.

More information:

To get important updates, visit: <https://isbw14.org/>

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14th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS 2020) (Bremen, Northern Germany, 2021).

Theme: Tackling the Challenging Future of Coral Reefs

The ICRS is the leading global conference on coral reef science, management and conservation, sanctioned every 4 years by the International Coral Reef Society (ICRS). For the first time in its history, an ICRS will be held in Europe. ICRS 2020 will be the key event to develop science-based solutions addressing the present and future challenges of coral reefs, which are globally exposed to unprecedented anthropogenic pressures. The five-day program will present the latest scientific findings and ideas, provide a platform to build the essential bridges between coral reef science, conservation, politics, management and the public, and will promote public and political outreach.

Key Themes which include seagrass ecosystems:

Theme 3: Ecosystem functions and services

Theme 6: Unexplored and unexpected reefs

Theme 9: Global and local impacts

Theme 10: Organismal physiology, adaptation and acclimation

More information:

To get important updates, visit: <https://www.icrs2020.de/>

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 51,783 views to date)

Global distribution of seagrass meadows https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPbmam_sitk

Presentation on new scientific paper examining the global distribution of seagrass meadows by McKenzie, Nordlund, Jones, Cullen-Unsworth, Roelfsema and Unsworth <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ab7d06>

Seagrass & other matters

World Seagrass Day <http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/world-seagrass-day/>

A global campaign for World Seagrass Day: Raising public awareness on the importance of seagrass meadows is central to efforts in the protection and conservation of seagrass meadows worldwide. The international seagrass research and conservation community, together with the undersigned, call on the United Nations to declare a World Seagrass Day to recognize the importance of seagrass meadows to the health and well-being of the planet, as well as the people, communities, flora, and fauna that rely on them. Show your support by signing the petition.

SeagrassSpotter <https://seagrassspotter.org/>

SeagrassSpotter seeks to expand the number of people studying seagrass from a handful of scientists to hundreds and potentially thousands of 'citizen scientists.'. As part of efforts to build a sustainable monitoring network, and by leveraging the enthusiasm of everyone from fishers to SCUBA divers to people on vacations at the beach, we'll create a more comprehensive picture of seagrass meadows around the globe. This in turn will inspire new scientific research and practical conservation measures that can help protect ocean habitats. Working together with citizen scientists all over the world, we'll accomplish big things for seagrass and other vulnerable marine species, but only with your help.

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

Keep up to date on what's happening with the around the world from the WSA. The World Seagrass Association is a global network of scientists and coastal managers committed to research, protection and management of the world's seagrasses. WSA members come from many countries and include leading scientists in marine and seagrass biology. The association supports training and information exchange and raises global awareness of seagrass science and environmental management issues.

World Seagrass Association on Twitter [@Seagrass_WSA](https://twitter.com/Seagrass_WSA)

Everything seagrass related. World Seagrass Association official account. Follow to stay up-to-date with global seagrass info. Moderator: LM Nordlund

Dugong & Seagrass Research Toolkit <http://www.conservation.tools/>

Dugongs and seagrass are under threat from human activities. By using this Toolkit you should be able to gather information to:

- understand better the status of dugongs, seagrass and communities at your research site;
- understand threats to dugongs and seagrasses and help find solutions to those threats;
- understand the communities that value or may affect dugongs and seagrasses.

The toolkit will guide you to the techniques and tools most suitable to your team capacity, budget and timeline. By using the toolkit, you will also be helping to standardise data sets and methods across different countries and sites, allowing for better comparison of global dugong and seagrass conservation status. The Toolkit is designed for use by marine natural resource managers and decision-makers (government and non-government) and for dugong and seagrass researchers. The Toolkit will assist organisations to assess funding proposals by describing the scope of work, choice of techniques and tools, and budget.

FROM HQ

Past E-bulletins <https://www.seagrasswatch.org/ebulletin/>

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

Magazine <https://www.seagrasswatch.org/magazine/>

Virtual Herbarium <https://www.seagrasswatch.org/herbarium/>

Future sampling dates <https://www.seagrasswatch.org/upcomingevents/>

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