

Seagrass-Watch HQ

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

05 February 2007

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

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

NEWS

Lessen Reef risks by pooling data (Queensland, Australia)

Cairns Post, Saturday, February 3, 2007

SCIENTISTS could ward off environmental disaster by pulling together to create a Reef-risk plan, a North Queensland-based marine expert said yesterday. Reef and Rainforest Research Centre Prof Russell Reichelt said more than a dozen scientific institutes and universities at present carried out research. Pooling data could pinpoint Reef sites in urgent need of protection, Prof Reichelt said.

Prof Reichelt said the Reef would face additional problems in the future, including coral disease, over fishing of sharks and rising acidity in the ocean. An Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, released in Paris last night, was expected to predict temperature rises of between 2-4.5C by 2100..... [more http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Scientist urges risk survey to help save reef (Queensland, Australia)

Wednesday, 31 January 2007

A leading scientist with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation says identifying the most resilient areas of the reef could help save it from extinction. A leaked report that is due to be presented to a global conference on climate change in Paris this week has predicted the reef could become extinct within 20 years.

But marine scientist Russel Reichelt says climate change does not impact evenly across the reef and some areas will survive better than others..... [more http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Barrier Reef could face extinction in less than 20 years - report

1:20PM Tuesday January 30, 2007

The Great Barrier Reef will become functionally extinct in less than 20 years if global warming continues at its current pace, a draft international report warns. A confidential draft of the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), obtained by The Age, says that global warming will cause billions of dollars of damage to coastal areas, key ecosystems and the farming sector without massive greenhouse gas emission cuts. In a chapter on Australia, the draft IPCC climate impacts report warns that coral bleaching in the Barrier Reef is likely to occur annually by 2030 because of warmer, more acidic seas..... [more http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Inside Reef!! (Bogor, Indonesia)

January, 2007

The Wildlife Conservation Society's Indonesian Marine Program recently released the first edition of its quarterly newsletter – "Inside Reef". The newsletter will keep readers informed of the latest activities of the Wildlife Conservation Society's Indonesian Marine Program and its partners. WCS has been in Indonesia for 4 years now, and while relatively young, they would like to communicate the many achievements and projects being undertaken by their group of dedicated Indonesian conservation practitioners. You can visit their website at <http://www.wcsmarine-indonesia.org/> or if you would like a copy of their newsletter, please contact Stuart Campbell s.campbell@wcsip.org

SOS Malaysia seeking research assistant (Malaysia)

January, 2007

Save Our Seahorses (SOS) Malaysia is seeking a part-time research assistant to be based in the Pulai River Estuary, Johor. SOS Malaysia is a non-profit organization committed to saving the seahorse and the Pulai River Estuary in Malaysia. SOS participants include young scientists, students, public volunteers and local fishing communities. Interested applicant should address his/her resume and inquiries to saveourseahorses@yahoo.com. There is also an opportunity to do a Master project at KUSTEM on seahorse and pipefish genetics. For more information, visit <http://www.sosmalaysia.org/>

GALLERY

Tuas (Singapore): 01 February 2007 <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/gallery.html>

"How exciting to finally meet all the volunteers from Schering Plough! Here we are, all ready to check out the Tuas shore...and what a fascinating shore Tuas is! With lots of Halophila ovalis and even a clump of long Enhalus acoroides. The Tuas shore is right next to reclaimed land but is alive with a wide variety of marine life. The tide was too high to go to the best parts (which are near the Merawang beacon). So we didn't get to check out the corals and sea fans there." Text: Team Seagrass-Singapore. Text: Team Seagrass-Singapore. TeamSeagrass Website <http://teamseagrass.blogspot.com/>

Green Island (Cairns, Qld): 31 January 2007 <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/gallery.html>

Heavy rain, a less than ideal low tide and a low pressure system hanging around the coral sea were the conditions the Seagrass-Watch monitoring team had to contend with on Green Island, persevering they did manage to complete both sites, G1 and G2.

Chek Jawa (Singapore): 20-21 January 2007 <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/gallery.html>

"It was a rather gloomy first field orientation for TeamSeagrass at Chek Jawa on 20 Jan 07. And it was not just due to the weather. Adelle and Choon Beng had earlier updated TeamSeagrass about the mass death at Chek Jawa. The carpet anemones seem to be bloating up and then exploding. Those that are still intact had distorted tentacles. Many were in 'pieces.

Ball sea cucumbers (Phyllophorus sp.) seemed to 'deflate' like bad ping pong balls. A similar fate suffered by what seemed to have been Sandfish sea cucumbers (Holothuria scabra). There were hundreds of these poor animals in various states of distress and death. The cause? Possibly the huge influx of freshwater from the Johor River due to the recent massive flooding there, following the highest recorded rainfall in 100 years. Chek Jawa lies just at the mouth of the Johor River. Locally, Singapore has also experienced record rainfall. All that freshwater probably affected the osmotic pressure of these marine animals. We're trying to find out more about this. On a more cheerful note, Siti and Wei Ling found Dugong feeding trails!! Amidst the deaths, Chek Jawa still has a smiley dugong feeding trail! Indeed, we wish our favourite shore a speedy recovery." Text: Team Seagrass-Singapore. TeamSeagrass Website <http://teamseagrass.blogspot.com/>

Shelly Beach (Townsville, Qld): 20 January 2007 <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/gallery.html>

"With a low tide of 0.33m at 0306 on Saturday January 20th a band of 11 diehard Seagrass-Watchers rolled out for a touch of early morning monitoring, at SB1. Lucky they were diehard as we had to wait for the tide to drop and endure squalls of torrential rain. Valiant effort to those who participated and thanks to TSVQPWS that allow this night time monitoring to occur."

FROM HQ

Seagrasses of Australia - Giveaway <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/shop.html#GIVE1>

H Kirkham

CSIRO Division of Marine Research

Department of the Environment, 1997

ISBN 0 642 25275 0

Seagrass-Watch HQ has several copies of "Seagrasses of Australia Australia: State of the Environment Technical Paper Series (Estuaries and the Sea), Series 1" by Dr Hugh Kirkman to give away. Donated by CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research Library in Hobart, this paper describes the nature of seagrasses and explains their importance in the marine environment and their relationships with other marine habitats. The body of the paper is split into three parts: the state of seagrasses in Australia; the pressures that are put on to seagrass habitats by people and nature; and the response that people can make to preserve and restore seagrass meadows. The extent, diversity and abundance of seagrasses are described for separate regions in Australia. There are about 51 000 sq km of seagrass meadow in Australia.

Although written in 1997, it is apparent throughout this paper that more research needs to be carried out. Mapping, inventories of diversity and abundance and background data on seagrasses need to be collected. Further research on ameliorating damage to seagrass meadows and accelerating the restoration processes needs to be properly funded and carried out. The legislation drawn up to protect seagrass habitats, relevant to each State, is listed. Finally, some recommendations as to further research and ways that seagrass meadows can be preserved are presented. If you would like a copy, send your request (including mailing details) to hq@seagrasswatch.org.

Seagrass-Watch bookmarks - Giveaway <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/shop.html#GIVE1>

20 different bookmarks are available, featuring Seagrass-Watch sites, seagrass species, marine life and water colour illustrations by Ruth Berry. To make your choice of bookmark(s), download the PDF file, note the number of your selected bookmark(s), and send your request (including mailing details) to hq@seagrasswatch.org.

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

Many participants had sent their planned sampling dates to Seagrass-Watch HQ. These dates have been posted on the website. If you haven't send you planned sampling dates, now is the time to plan your sampling for 2007. Please send your sampling dates to

hq@seagrasswatch.org .

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

For any other Giveaways (incl. Phytoplankton Guide, Manual for Assessing Fish Stocks on Pacific Corral Reefs, Seagrass Biology) - <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/shop.html#GIVE1>

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

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

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