

## Seagrasses....need our help!

Seagrasses are flowering plants that live along the coast in shallow sheltered areas. Unlike seaweeds, seagrasses have true roots. They have green leaves and with their roots create a dense mat holding sediments together – they look like a meadow

under the sea.

Seagrasses are very important for trapping sediment and slowing down currents, effectively creating coastal defences. The absorb and store carbon, nutrients, bacteria and pollutants, helping to cleanse our coastal waters. Seagrasses provide a home for a wide range of species, including ones in the human food-chain.



These precious plants are threatened by pollution caused from excessive nutrients and sediment running off land; as well as physical damage from boat propellers and mooring chains.

You can help to conserve seagrasses and protect the coastal environment by participating in a reporting system through <u>Seagrass Spotter</u> online – it's easy and will take only a few minutes:

- Take a photo if you can (your phone will do)
- Use the App to identify (download from the App Store or Google Play) OR follow the key online: <u>Seagrass Spotter</u>
- If you have time, compete a few questions about the environment (not essential)

If you've spotted seagrasses whilst diving please use the Seagrass spotter website interface to make a report.

For more information you can email <u>info@projectseagrass.org</u> or read the information on the website.

Thank you for helping to conserve our environment!