



Gladstone  
Healthy Harbour  
Partnership

# SEAGRASS



## FIVE FAST FACTS

1. Seagrass is an indicator for the Environmental component of the Gladstone Harbour Report Card.
2. Seagrass meadows create nursery areas for juvenile fish and foraging areas for dugongs, turtles and large fish such as adult barramundi.
3. Seagrass ecosystem functions include: sediment stabilisation, nutrient cycling and carbon sequestration.
4. At peak distribution, seagrass meadows in Gladstone Harbour cover approximately 12,000 ha.
5. Fourteen seagrass meadows across **SIX ZONES** are monitored for the annual Gladstone Harbour Report Card.

## THE GRADES

2019	2020	Grading system
		Very good (0.85 - 1.00)
		Good (0.65 - 0.84)
		Satisfactory (0.50 - 0.64)
		Poor (0.25 - 0.49)
		Very poor (0.00 - 0.24)

## HOW IS SEAGRASS MEASURED?

Seagrass surveys are conducted in Gladstone Harbour every year in November by a team of scientists from James Cook University. Surveys are undertaken by air in a helicopter and underwater by divers.

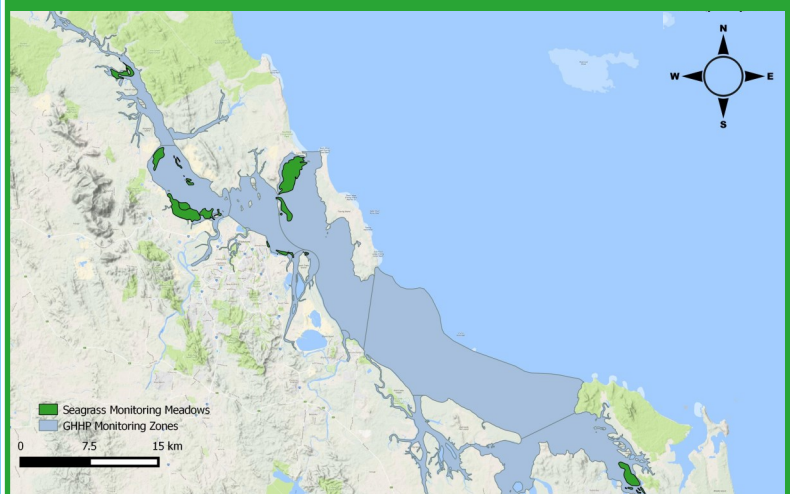
**THREE** seagrass sub-indicators are measured to calculate scores:

1. **Biomass:** measuring above ground biomass tells us how much seagrass there is in a meadow.
2. **Area:** boundaries are mapped to see if the area of seagrass is declining, stable or growing.
3. **Species composition:** the different types of seagrass are monitored. A meadow will receive a high score if the one species remains stable. It will receive a lower score if there is a shift from the main species to new colonising species.

## WHAT DO THE GRADES MEAN?

Monitored seagrass meadows in Gladstone Harbour were graded as **GOOD** (0.79) in the 2020 reporting year. This is the second year of substantial recovery from the overall poor condition shown from 2015 to 2018. Moreover, the overall seagrass condition in 2020 was the best of past decade. As in the previous year, results suggest that the dry, mild weather conditions provided ideal conditions for seagrass recovery in the 2020 reporting year.

## SEAGRASS MEADOWS MONITORED BY GHHP



Seagrass is monitored in six GHHP zones: The Narrows, Western Basin, Inner Harbour, Mid Harbour, South Trees Inlet and Rodds Bay.

GHHP Partner, Gladstone Ports Corporation was a direct contributor to this indicator.

For more information on seagrass monitoring in Gladstone Harbour visit [www.ghhp.org.au](http://www.ghhp.org.au) or visit our Facebook page.