

Save Philippine Seas
Because our seas save us.

SEAGRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

FACTS AND FIGURES ON SEAGRASS



- Multi-cellular algae that have little or no vascular tissues
- Reproduces via spores
- Approximately 5,000 species
- Anchors onto rocks or other hard substrata using holdfasts
- Common ingredient in East Asian cuisines (e.g., nori, kombu, and wakame)

SEAWEED VS SEAGRASS

- Vascular plants that have roots, stems, and leaves
- Reproduces via flowers, fruits, and seeds
- Approximately 60 species
- Anchors into the ground through a complex root system
- Favorite food of dugong and green sea turtles

Source: CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat



Save Philippine Seas
Because our seas save us.

Working Grass Hero

There are about 60 species of seagrasses globally, 18 of which can be found in the Philippines.

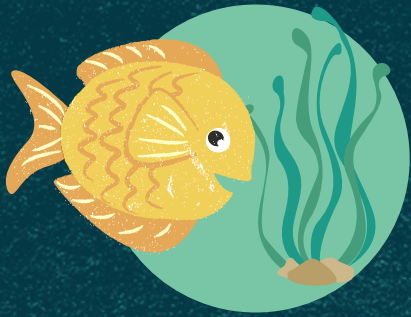
Seagrasses in the Philippines cover an area of about 27,282 square kilometers. They are widely distributed throughout the country - from Batanes in the north, to the Tawi-Tawi islands in the south, and in all seas surrounding the country.

Source: Fortes, M.D.



Save Philippine Seas
Because our seas save us.

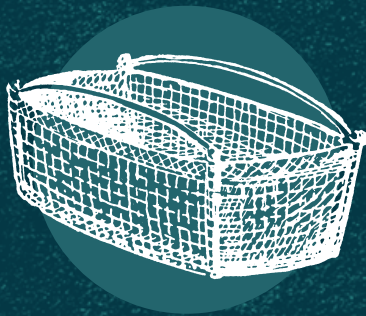
The grass is greener



Seagrasses serve as nurseries for many juvenile fish.



Seagrass beds serve as habitats and/or food sources for more than 1,000 species of fish, as well as dugongs, sea turtles, and seahorses.



The fruits and leaves of some species of seagrass are used for food and raw materials for woven handicrafts.



Seagrasses dissipate wind and wave energy and shelter the coast from storms.

Source: oceanfdn.org; Fortes, M.D.

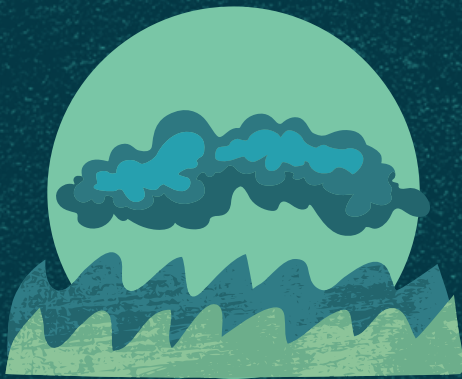


Save Philippine Seas
Because our seas save us.

The grass is greener



Seagrasses are known as the "lungs of the sea." One square meter of seagrass can generate at least 10 liters of oxygen a day.



Seagrasses occupy only 0.1% of the seafloor, but are responsible for up to 11% of the organic carbon buried in the ocean.



A healthy and productive seagrass meadow will fizz with oxygen bubbles, looking like champagne. This is because they give off oxygen in the water, seagrasses offer reefs a relief from acidification.

Source: oceanfdn.org; ocean.si.edu



Save Philippine Seas
Because our seas save us.

Keep off the grass!

Seagrasses are losing 7% of their known area per year due to the following reasons:

Tourism and coastal development

Seagrasses are damaged by inappropriate mangrove planting initiatives and construction of ports, resorts, and fish pens.

Drag net fishing and bad boating practices

Boats, nets, anchors, small boats, and jet skis can dislodge seagrass.

Runoff from land into the ocean

Nutrients (e.g., from sewage and fertilizers) wash into the water and may cause algal blooms. This depletes oxygen and blocks sunlight that seagrasses need to survive.



Save Philippine Seas

Because our seas save us.

Building a seagrassroots movement

KEEP OFF THE GRASS!

Do not uproot seagrass beds. If you see anyone uprooting seagrass beds, report them to local authorities immediately.

DON'T BE NAUTI.

Follow proper boating practices.

EDUCATE

Educate others on why we should protect seagrass.

For more information, visit:

fb.com/seagrassrootsmovement

www.seagrasswatch.org

www.projectseagrass.org





DRESS YOUR TECH!

Download free ocean-inspired desktop wallpapers and Zoom backgrounds for free at www.savephilippineseas.org/dressyourtech

