

# Great Seagrass Survey

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How old do I have to be to take part?**

All ages are welcome to take part in the Great Seagrass Survey, however anyone under 18 years of age should be supervised by a parent or guardian.

### **Do I have to be a member of BSAC to take part?**

You don't have to be a member of BSAC, but we would encourage you to check out the benefits of membership and consider joining us!

### **What if I don't fancy getting in the water?**

No problem! Seagrass can often be found in the intertidal zone (the part of the beach that dries out at low water), so you can take part without having to get wet (unless it's raining 😊)

### **How do I know where to survey?**

We have produced a map which shows sites where seagrass has either previously been reported or is suspected to be but no one has recorded it yet. These sites provide a guide to some locations that you may want to survey. However you are free to choose your own site too, maybe somewhere where you know there is some seagrass or a place that you fancy checking out. Remember that above all, the site you choose should be safe to access and dive in the conditions on the day. Be prepared to abandon a survey at your chosen site if the conditions are not right.

### **There isn't a survey site near me shown on the map?**

That may be because no one has found any seagrass near you yet, maybe you will be the first! It may also mean that conditions in your area are not that suited to seagrass. It is perfectly fine to choose a site which isn't shown on the map. Even if you don't find any seagrass on your survey, it is still very helpful to know about this 'null result' and your survey will still be valuable.

### **Can I choose my own survey site?**

Yes! Make sure that you choose one that is legal and safe to access and dive in the conditions on the day.

### **What if I don't see any seagrass?**

No worries, your 'null result' is still really valuable to scientists. It provides firm evidence that seagrass wasn't present on that date which can be compared with past and future records.

## **What if I don't want to, or don't have the equipment to map the seagrass?**

While mapping the seagrass is especially helpful and we would encourage you to do so if you can, just knowing whether you found seagrass or not is still very helpful and you can still submit your results.

## **Who will be responsible for my safety?**

You will be! You and your group or club are responsible for your own safety at all times.

How can I find out about tide times? The resources that you usually use for your dive planning should provide you with tide times. A commonly used tide data source is:

<https://easytide.admiralty.co.uk/>

## **How will the data be used?**

The data that you submit will be uploaded to the national repository for marine data, where it can be accessed and used by scientists, restoration professionals and policy makers.

Why do you need my personal information? When we validate the data collected it is possible that we may need to contact you to confirm details of your survey, for example if you have made a particularly exciting discovery. We believe it is important to share the results of the Great Seagrass Survey with all those who took part in collecting the data. Once all of the data has been analysed, we will send you a summary of what was learnt from the Great Seagrass Survey. You can choose to opt out of this when you register. Your personal details will not be shared outside of BSAC / Seawilding.

## **Can I organise an event with my BASC club or centre?**

Yes! Seagrass surveying makes a great group activity.

What if I already have diving planned that weekend? Your planned dive can become a seagrass survey as simply as telling us if you saw seagrass or not while you were under the water.

Seagrass lives in quite shallow water, usually <7m and even in the intertidal zone (the part of the beach that dries out at low water). You may be able to add a shallow seagrass survey as a second dive or snorkel or simply conduct a survey on the beach following your dive.

## **What if I want to conduct a seagrass survey on a different date?**

That's fine, in fact the more surveys you do the better! We are encouraging people to survey on the 27th and 28th May to help in raising awareness but the survey portal will be open to accept survey results all year.

## **What if I don't know how to map seagrass?**

Check out the Great Seagrass Survey page on our website for the mapping guide.

## **How do you identify seagrass?**

Check out the Great Seagrass Survey page on our website for the ID guide.

## **What equipment do I need?**

To undertake a full survey you will need a device with a GPS, such as a smart phone or running watch, a 30cm ruler or tape measure and a notepad or dive slate and pencil and a camera. If you don't have a GPS device just a notepad, ruler and camera will do.

## **What if I want to learn more or get involved further in surveying and marine conservation?**

Fantastic! BSAC and Seawilding have created two eLearning courses to help you do just that. Check out the Shore Surveyor and Underwater Surveyor courses.

**[www.seawilding.org/great-seagrass-survey](http://www.seawilding.org/great-seagrass-survey)**