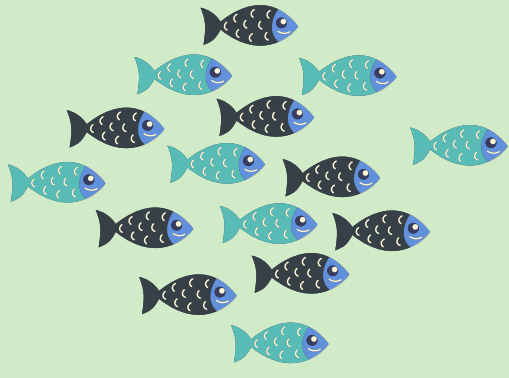
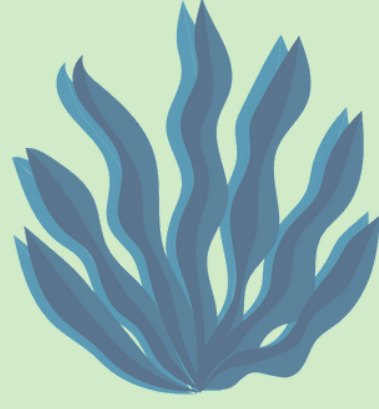


THE IMPORTANCE OF SEAGRASS



BIODIVERSITY

Thousands of species rely on seagrass. Over fifty species of fish have been recorded in one meadow along with hundreds of species of invertebrates such as molluscs, shrimp and marine worms. Over 50% more animals live within seagrass compared to adjacent sandy habitats.



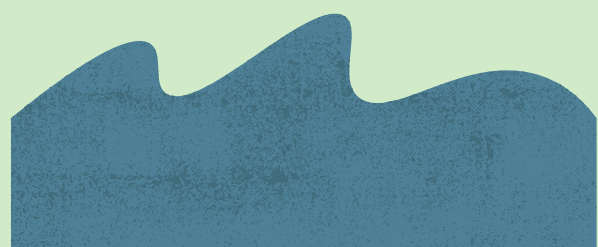
SHELTER

Seagrass meadows provide valuable nursery habitat for commercially important species. Their dense layers of leaves slow the flow of water and provide a safe shelter for juvenile fish as well as some smaller species of fish and invertebrates.



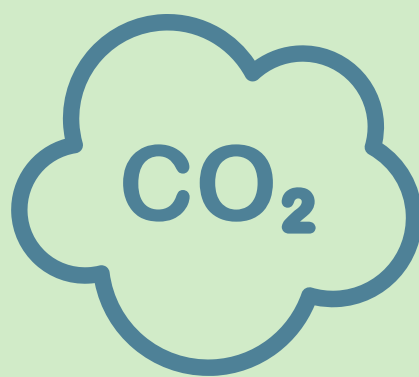
FISHERIES

Seagrass plays an important role in supporting fisheries' productivity by providing nursery habitat for commercial fish. A fifth of the world's biggest fisheries, such as Atlantic Cod and Walleye Pollock are reliant on healthy seagrass meadows.



WATER QUALITY

Seagrass roots trap and stabilize sediment, helping improve water quality and reducing coastal erosion. Seagrass also produces oxygen through photosynthesis which marine creatures need to breathe.



CARBON SINK

Seagrass removes carbon from the environment and locks it away in their roots providing a vital store of blue carbon. This helps reduce the impact of climate change.

95%

of seagrass meadows have disappeared from UK coastal waters

15%

total burial of ocean's carbon (despite covering less than 0.1% of the ocean floor)

72

different species spread all over the globe