

Parks Victoria Research Partners Panel Project Summary Report

Analysis of Sea Search monitoring data

Background

The Sea Search citizen science monitoring program was begun in 2005 with the aim of both educating and engaging members of the public with marine national parks (MNP) and marine sanctuaries (MS) by involving them in the collection of monitoring data that could be used to inform management. The findings from this monitoring data had not previously been analysed and this is necessary in order to track any changes occurring within marine protected areas (MPAs).

Aim

- To analyse and describe data collected during Sea Search monitoring between 2005 and 2009.

Results

- Seagrass shoot length in Corner Inlet increased significantly over time.
- Seagrass data at Jawbone could not be statistically analysed, however graphs were created to visualise data.
- Intertidal reef surveys provided a species list of macroinvertebrates and algae for all parks surveyed.
- Many of the common invertebrates exhibited seasonal changes in abundance at all MPAs analysed.

Implications

- Parks Victoria has a better understanding of the marine species and marine natural values present in these MNPs and MSs.
- Parks Victoria has preliminary findings on seagrass in Corner Inlet.
- Seasonal patterns of invertebrate abundance demonstrate the value of monitoring seasonally.
- It is essential that all data collection is completed during each monitoring exercise and that monitoring is completed regularly to avoid future data inconsistencies in order to provide useful information for management.
- This project partly contributed to a review of the Sea Search program.

Relevant parks and ecosystems

Mushroom Reef Marine Sanctuary
Merri Marine Sanctuary
Corner Inlet Marine National Park
Point Cooke Marine Sanctuary
Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary
Jawbone Marine Sanctuary
Seagrass
Intertidal Reef

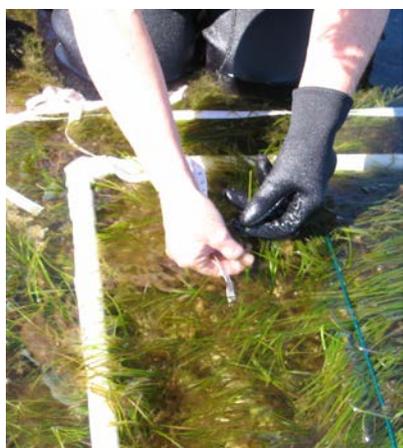
More information

Contact Science and Management Effectiveness Branch, Parks Victoria on 13 1963

Publications

Carnell, P. E. 2010. Sea Search Intertidal and Seagrass Monitoring. Report to Parks Victoria and People & Parks Foundation (unpublished).

[Parks Victoria 2013. Sea Search Manual. A guide to community based monitoring of Victoria's marine national parks and marine sanctuaries.](#)



Left: seagrass monitoring. Right: rocky shore. Photo credits – Parks Victoria and People & Parks Foundation.