

Protecting and enhancing high value fish habitats across central Queensland's coast

FISHERIES HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM



“When I was out on the water, I would see rubbish and ask ‘why isn’t anyone doing anything about this’. Now when I see rubbish, I pick it up. The solution is simple, and it starts with all of us.”

Volunteer



1,153kg rubbish removed



415,000 seeds collected and 25,000 seagrass plants released



252 volunteers



30+ volunteer boats



2,004+ hours



21 event days

AIM

Harness an army of community members to protect and restore vital seagrass meadows along the central Queensland coast. This important project was led by Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) in partnership with CQUniversity’s Coastal Marine Ecosystems Research Centre (CMERC), Woppaburra TUMRA, Konomie Island Environmental Education Centre and members of the central Queensland fishing community.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The ‘Protecting and enhancing high value fish habitats across central Queensland’s coast’ project worked to restore seagrass communities (critical fish habitat) that are declining due to habitat loss and destruction. This project reduced threats to seagrass communities through removal of marine debris and assisting seagrass propagation in areas experiencing meadow loss. Works were carried out in locations near Gladstone Harbour and Konomie Island. These areas were identified as suitable priority for restoration through CQUniversity’s hydrodynamic modelling process. By actively engaging and involving University researchers, local recreational fishing groups and communities in this project we increased the region’s awareness and stewardship for these essential, but often overlooked marine habitats, leading to more sustainable recreational use of marine areas throughout the Fitzroy region.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

Winner of the Queensland Farmers Federation’s 2022 Reef Community Champion Award

Supporting the establishment of the first island-based seagrass nursery and research facility in Queensland, SeaGrow Konomie Island

Successful collaboration with Woppaburra TUMRA and community groups

This program was delivered by Fitzroy Basin Association through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program.





Seagrass training and seed dispersal trial at Curtis Island

Corio Bay clean-up days

Seagrass seed dispersal trial at Curtis Island

Corio Bay clean-up days

Seagrass seed collection at Curtis Island

Seagrass seed collection at Curtis Island

Seagrass seed collection by snorkel at Konomie Island

Seagrass signs installed

Fitzroy River clean-up days

Official opening of SeaGrow Konomie Island

Seagrass seed dispersal with Keppel Bay Sports Fishing Club

Seagrass seed dispersal with Gladstone Sports Fishing Club

Corio Bay clean-up day

Seagrass seed collection at Konomie Island

Seagrass seed collection at Curtis Island

Seagrass seed collection by snorkel on Konomie

Project nominated as a finalist for the 2022 Reef Champion Award in the category of Reef Community Champion

Project announced as the winner of the 2022 Reef Champion Award in the category of Reef Community Champion

Reef Champion Trophy goes to new home at Konomie Island



MAY
2021

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY
2022

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY
2023

FEBRUARY