



PROJECT SEAGRASS

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO SEAGRASS

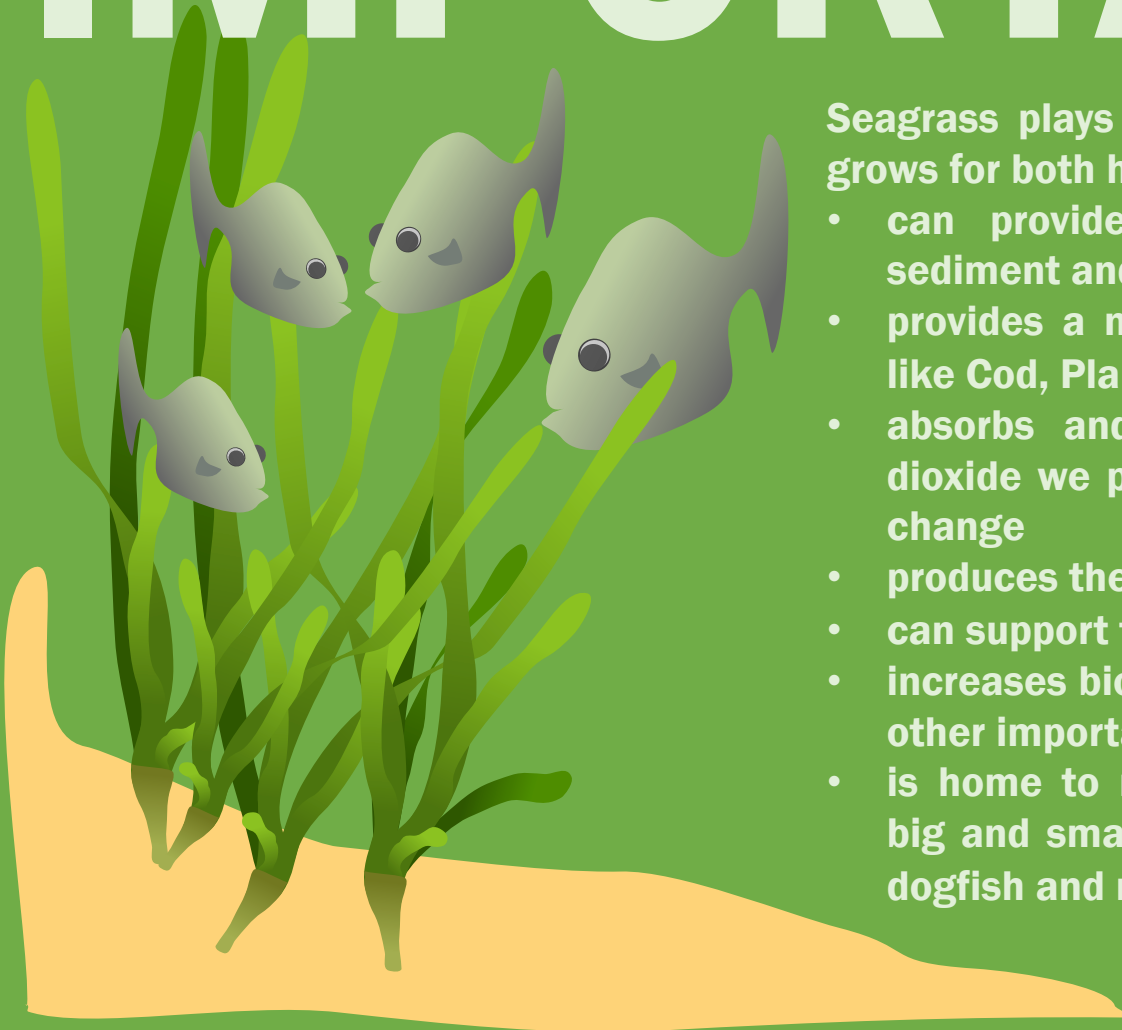


WHAT IS SEAGRASS?

Seagrass isn't seaweed, but a group of flowering plants that live in shallow sheltered areas along our coastline. With bright green leaves and waterproof pollen, they form large dense green meadows under the sea hosting many animals of different shapes, colours and sizes. Because of where they grow they are highly vulnerable to damage from humans and are now a protected species. In the 1930's we lost over 50% of our seagrass to a wasting disease so protecting what's left is vital.



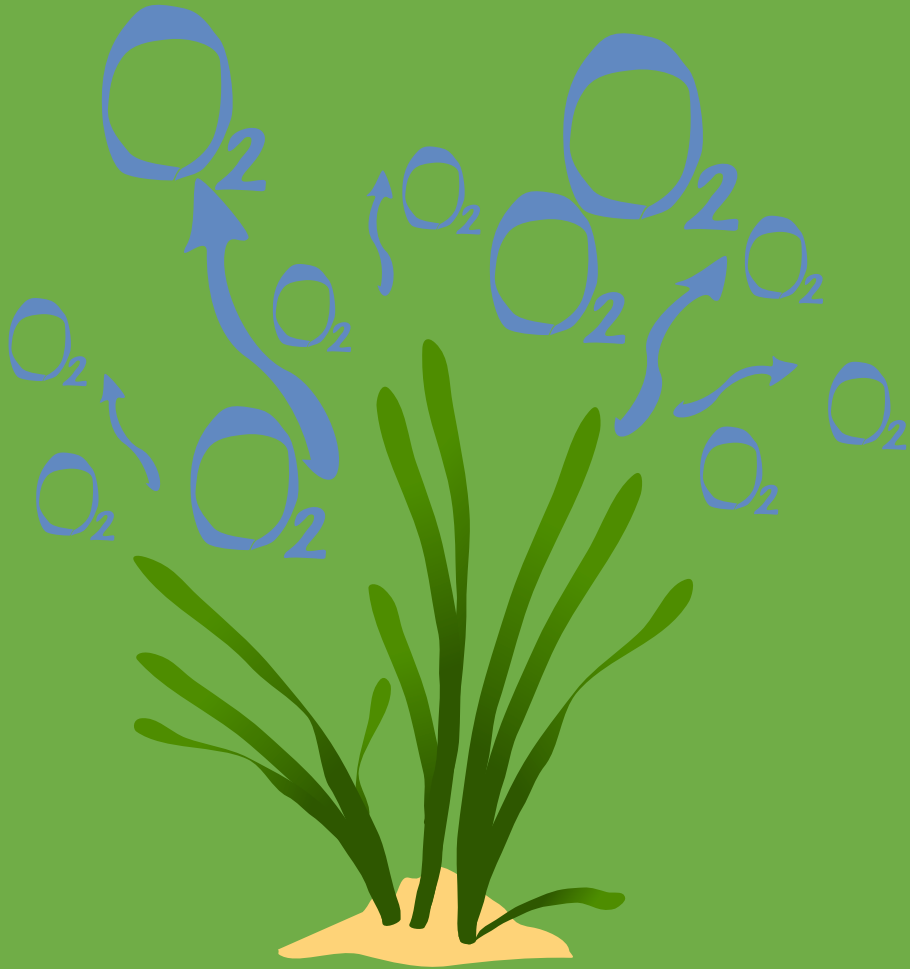
WHY IS SEAGRASS IMPORTANT?



Seagrass plays an important role in the areas where it grows for both humans and sea creatures alike. Seagrass:

- can provide a natural sea defence by trapping sediment and slowing down currents and waves
- provides a nursery ground for many commercial fish like Cod, Plaice and Pollack
- absorbs and stores large amounts of the carbon dioxide we produce, vital in the fight against climate change
- produces the oxygen we breathe
- can support tourism
- increases biodiversity by providing food and shelter for other important marine life
- is home to many colourful and charismatic species, big and small like seahorse, pipefish, sea anemones, dogfish and more

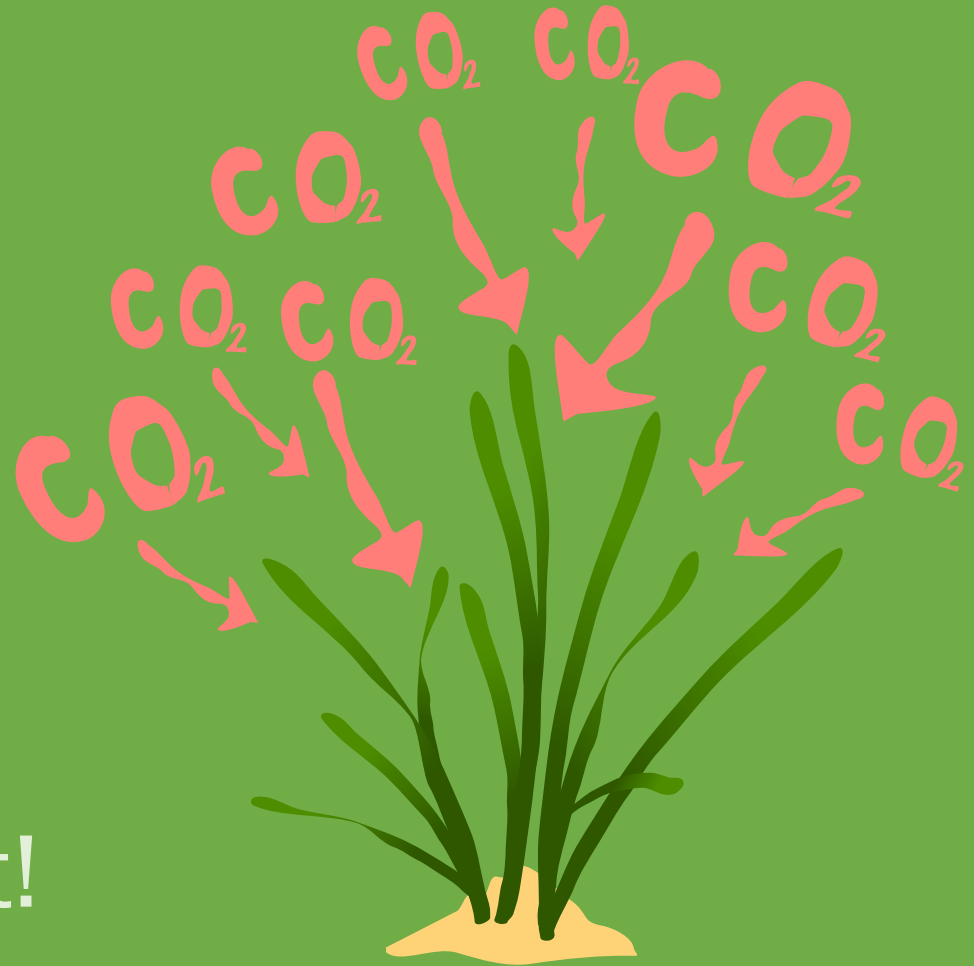
WHAT DOES ONE HECTARE PROVIDE?



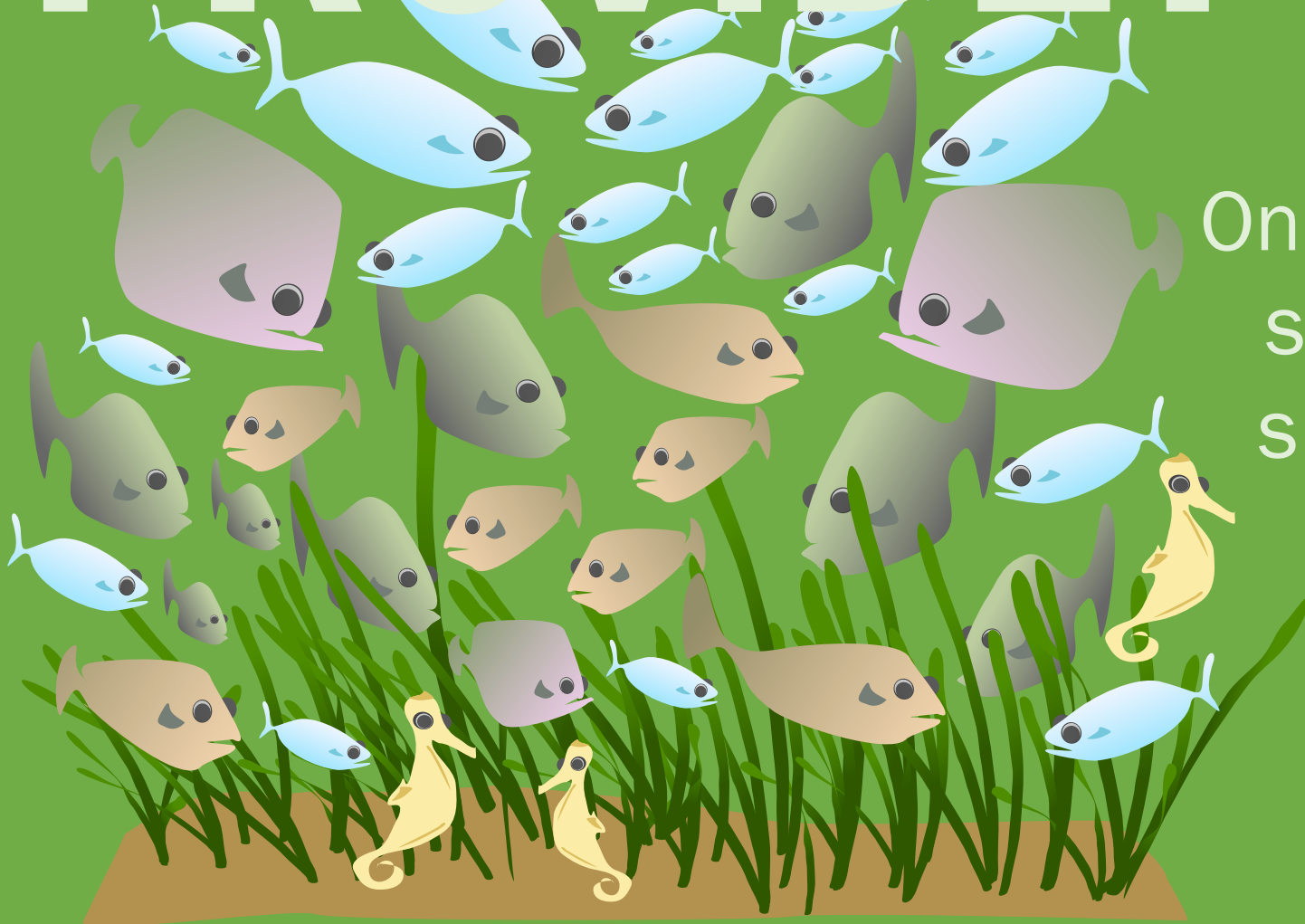
One Hectare of
seagrass produces
up to 100,000 litres
of oxygen per day!
That's enough for
nearly 200 people!

WHAT DOES ONE HECTARE PROVIDE?

One Hectare of one species of seagrass stores carbon dioxide 35 times more efficiently than the same area of Amazonian Rainforest!



WHAT DOES ONE HECTARE PROVIDE?



One Hectare of
seagrass can
support up to
80,000 fish

SEAGRASS UNDER THREAT

Seagrass is under threat in the UK from anchoring and moorings.

Less
seagrass.
Less
fish.

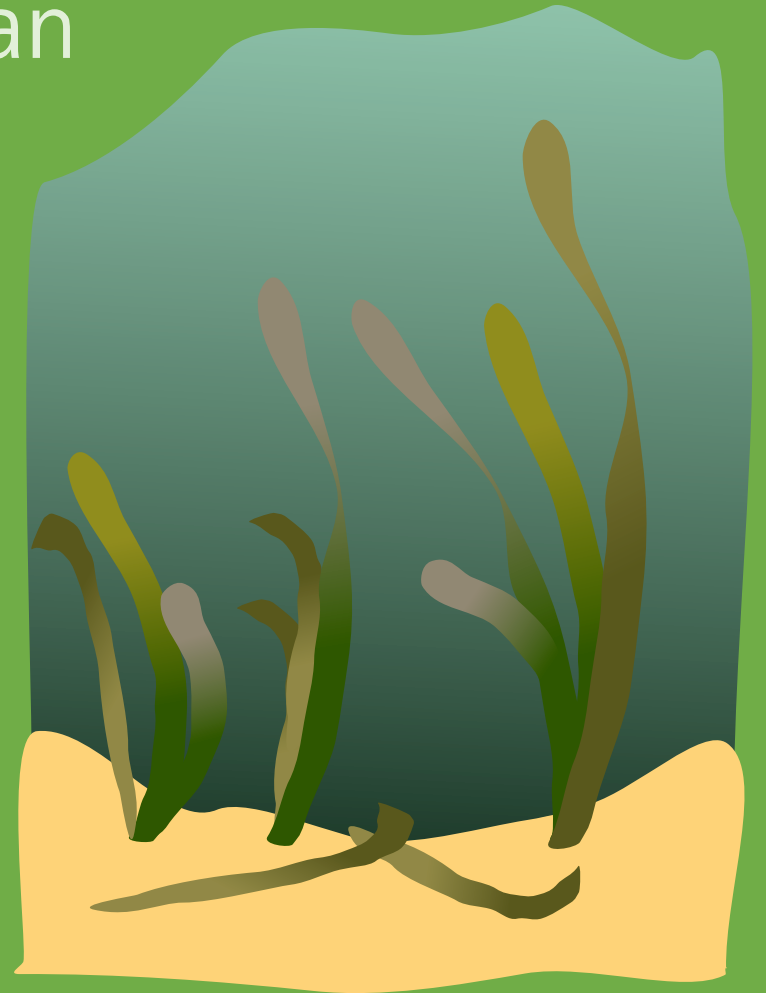


SEAGRASS UNDER THREAT

Litter, pollution and waste can
all smother the plants and
reduce their growth

Less growth.

Less CO₂ absorption.



WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP?

- Help us promote awareness of the value and sensitivity of seagrass ecosystems and what they mean to us
- Invest in research to help monitor their condition and find new ways to protect them including restoration



www.projectseagrass.org

