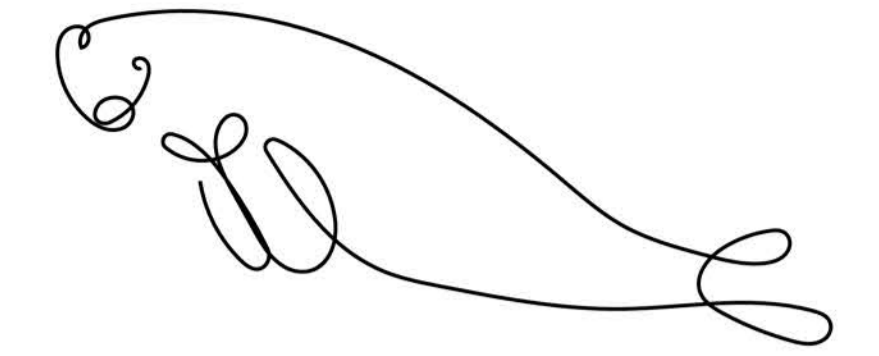


# Intertidal seagrass habitats on Waiben (Thursday Island) Kaurareg Sea Country



## Why is this area important?

Seagrass communities support and protect many important species, including turtle, dugong, sea cucumbers, fish and prawns. These habitats are found throughout Kaurareg Sea Country.

Kaurareg Sea Country has diverse intertidal seagrass meadows. Good data on where these species are found is needed for Traditional Owners and government to manage and protect Sea Country.

## Where did we survey?

We mapped a section of the intertidal seagrass meadow at Waiben, near the hospital, using drones in 2025.

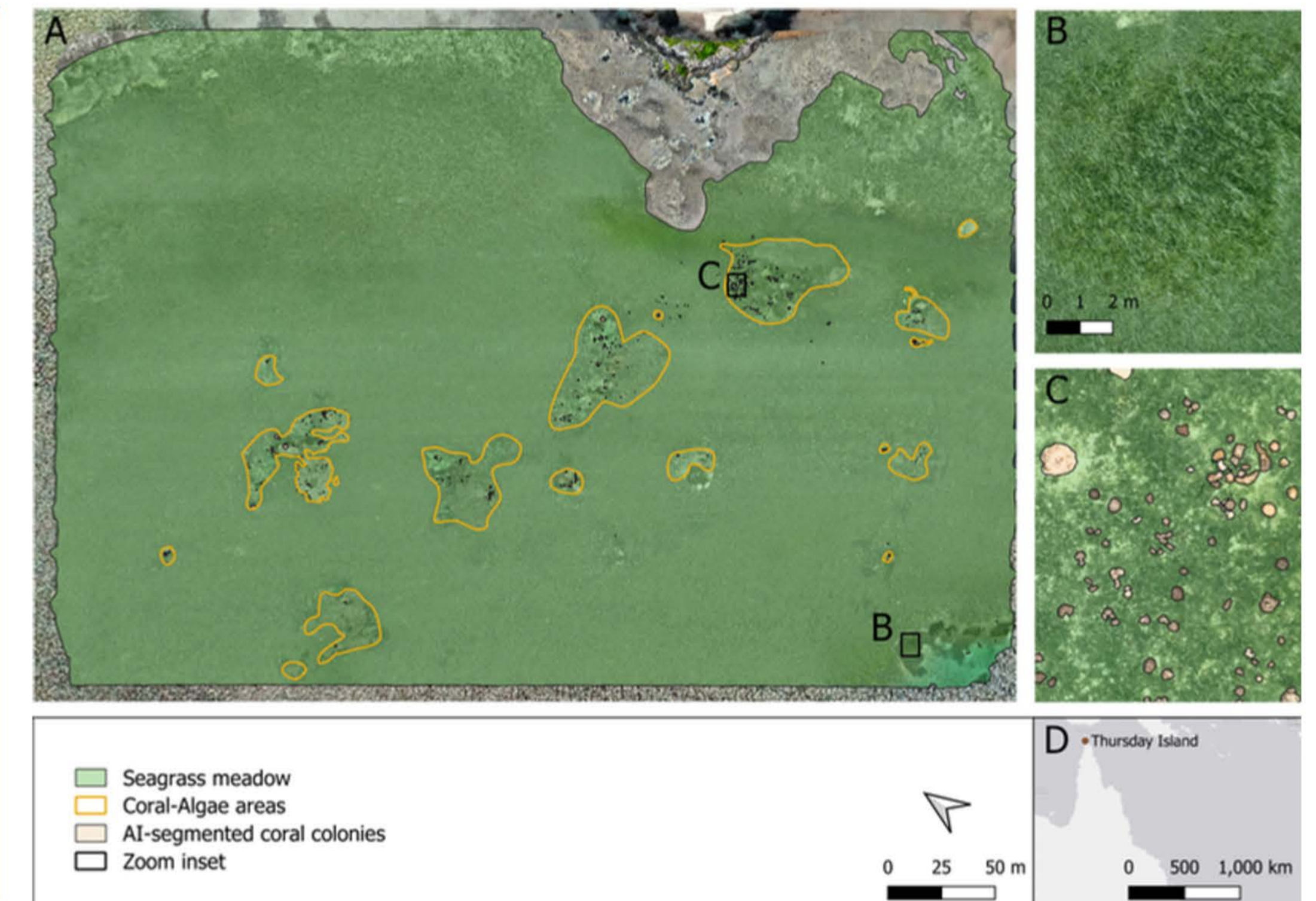
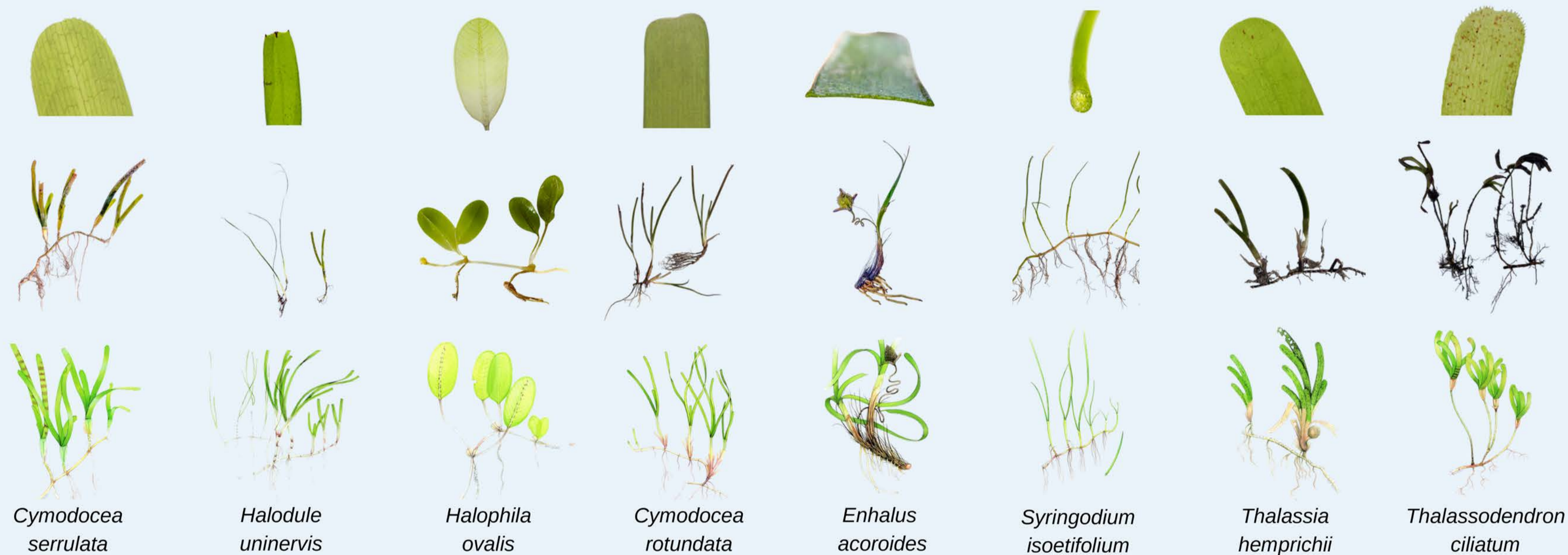
We identified individual seagrass species and habitats such as coral and algae. Seagrass was very dense and covered most of the mapped area.



## What did we find?

### Intertidal seagrass species

We found 8 intertidal seagrass species in the Thursday Island meadow, and collected high resolution images to help with identification.

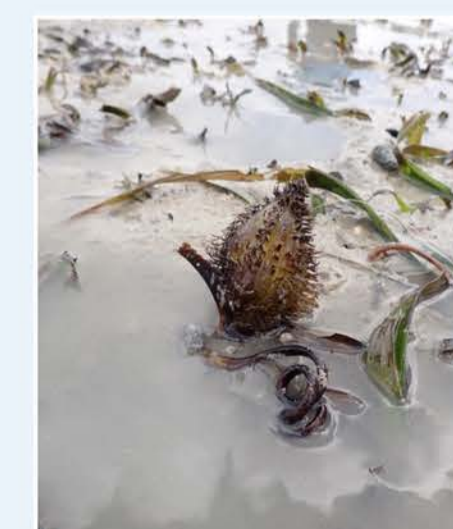


### Animals

Fish, shrimp, seastars, and hard and soft corals were observed in the meadow.



Fruits and flowers were present on the largest seagrass species, *Enhalus acoroides*.



### Did you know?

Two other species are commonly found in Waiben's deeper waters: *Halophila decipiens* and *Halophila spinulosa*. *Zostera muelleri* is found in small patches in the intertidal area, too



We acknowledge the Kaurareg Traditional Owners of the land and waters where this work took place. This work was funded by the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Marine and Coastal Hub.