

Isaac Region educational booklet and citizen science data collection guidelines

DUGONG

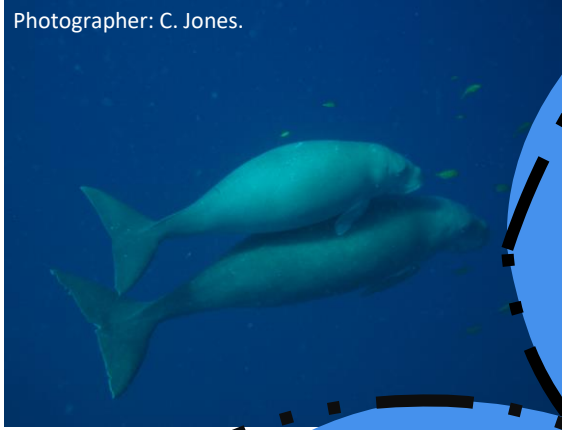
(Dugong dugon)



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MACKAY-WHITSUNDAY-ISAAC

DUGONG

Photographer: C. Jones.



Dugong are marine mammals.

WHICH MEANS...

- 1) Dugong give birth to **live young**, called calves, that suckle milk from their mothers for up to 15 months.
- 2) They **breathe air** and therefore, have to come to the surface for breath.

Dugong are the only **herbivorous** marine mammals.

They feed **exclusively on seagrass**, uprooting the entire plant and leaving a characteristic **feeding trail** in their wake.

Seagrass meadows are crucial to dugong survival and the health of the entire ecosystem.

Photographer: D. Perrine.



Dugong can grow up to **3m** in length and weigh up to **400kgs**.

They can live for up to **70 years**, but may not start breeding until their late teens.



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DUGONG

Dugong are currently listed as **Vulnerable to extinction** by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and the Queensland government.

WHY?



Photographer: T. Preen.

Long life spans and low reproductive output (few offspring, with a long period in between each calf), mean that dugong populations cannot bounce back quickly when numbers go down.

Dugong live in shallow tropical seas and seagrass meadows, often near human developments. Humans activities are the biggest threats to dugong, through:

Climate Change, Boat strike, Incidental capture in fishing nets and marine debris, & Habitat degradation (e.g. declining water quality and/or seagrass meadow destruction)



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DUGONG

Boating

Reduce your speed around seagrass meadows and keep an eye out for dugong on the surface.

Avoid anchoring in seagrass meadows.

Pollution

Dispose of litter and fishing nets and line into a bin.

Report sick, injured or dead wildlife

Call the marine wildlife stranding hotline on:
1300 130 372

Citizen Science

Become a part of the Isaac Dugong Monitoring Citizen Science Project.

- 1) Fill out the data collection sheet accompanying this booklet (instructions over page).
- 2) When full send this sheet to Cr Viv Coleman at PO Box 97, Moranbah 4744 or email a scanned copy or photo to Viv.Coleman@isaac.qld.gov.au.
- 3) Data from all members will be collated and distributed back to residents and local caravan parks.



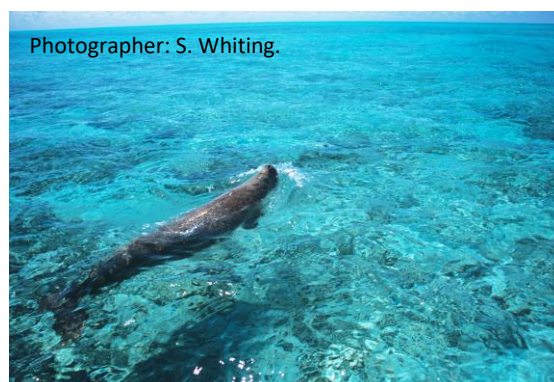
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DATA COLLECTION

How to use this data collection sheet:

- 1) Get out and about along the coastline.
- 2) **Keep your eyes out for dugongs and dugong feeding trails.**
- 3) Record the details of any sightings.
 - a) When? (date and time)
 - b) Where? (location of sighting, be as specific as possible)
 - c) Type of sighting? (dugongs or dugong feeding trail/s)
 - d) How many? (If you've seen a dugong, record how many (or your best guess))
 - e) Any extra notes? (Let us know anything else that you think is important about the sighting)

WHEN?	WHERE?	TYPE OF SIGHTING?	HOW MANY?	EXTRA NOTES
10 th Nov 2020 09:00am	Barra Crab Caravan Park	Dugong	1	
1 st Dec 2020 05:00pm	Bluerock Beach	Feeding trail		Feeding trail (approx. 3m) close to coast



Dugong DATA COLLECTION

WHEN?	WHERE?	TYPE OF SIGHTING?	HOW MANY?	EXTRA NOTES

Run out of room? Excellent!

Send your completed sheet to Cr Viv Coleman at PO Box 97, Moranbah 4744 or email a scanned copy or photo to Viv.Coleman@isaac.qld.gov.au

Photocopy a blank template to create spares, or email Viv.Coleman@isaac.qld.gov.au for a new sheet.

PHOTOCOPY ME
TO MAKE SPARES!



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Dugong DATA COLLECTION

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Liveability & Sustainability Department

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