

Introduction to Papers on Seagrass Conservation

THE following ten papers are the proceedings of a symposium on "seagrass conservation issues" held at the meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia (July 13–16, 1998).

The symposium was convened to address a significant gap in marine conservation efforts by increasing the awareness of seagrasses and their ecosystems as threatened habitats. The threats to seagrass habitats are greatest in the Indo-Pacific and along the developed coasts of the World. The aim was to bring together scientists and resource managers to present and discuss the most recent advances in seagrass conservation

biology. Our colleagues around the world contribute to an enormous conservation effort, but there is no "voice" for seagrasses. The papers in this symposium help to address this absence. We hope these proceedings will encourage seagrass researchers and managers to consider a wider range of issues when contemplating the seagrasses in their environment and that the need for seagrass conservation and management will be heard loudly.

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