

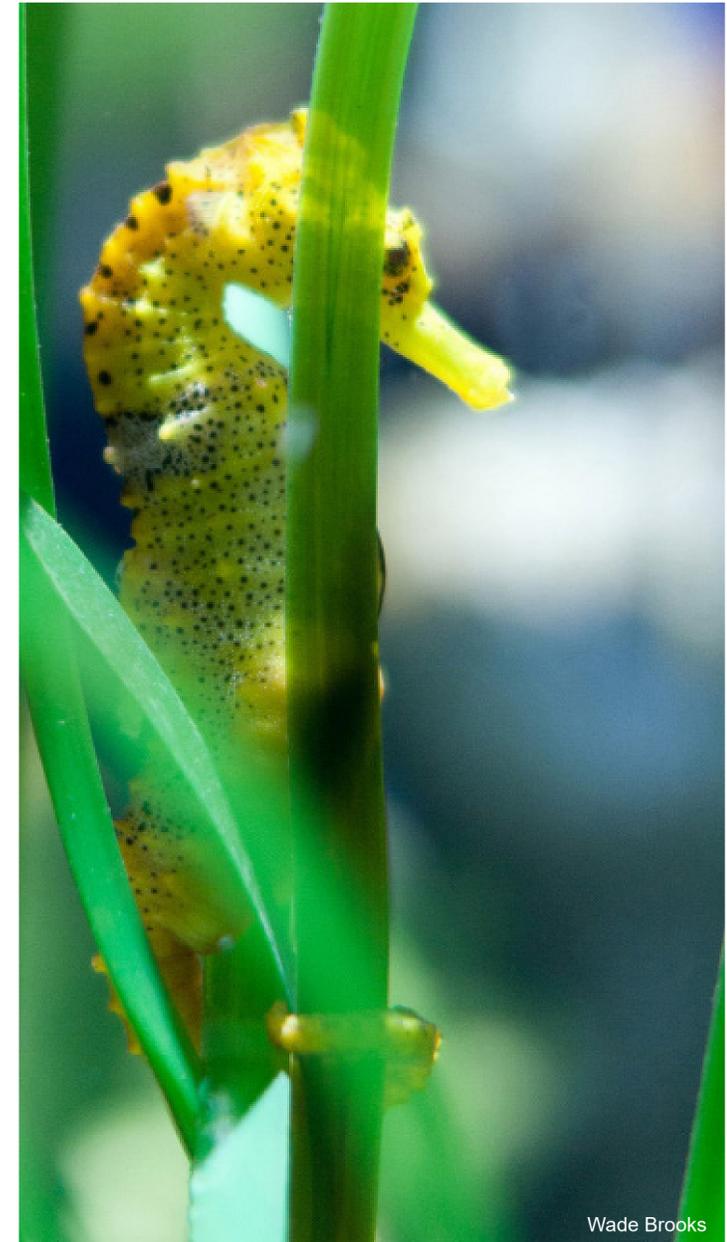
# Anguilla's Seagrass Beds

## Seagrass Beds: the facts

- 1m<sup>2</sup> of seagrass can produce 10 litres of oxygen a day - essential for marine life.
- An adult sea turtle can eat about 2kg of seagrass every day!
- Tiny crustaceans, the “bees of the sea,” pollinate seagrass flowers.
- A seagrass bed the size of a football field can absorb the equivalent amount of pollutants as produced from driving a car for 7,500 miles!
- Globally, the equivalent of 2 football fields of seagrass are lost every year. While they are one of the most productive ecosystems in the world, they are also one of the most threatened. They are under threat from:
  - tropical storms and hurricanes
  - damage caused by boat anchors
  - sedimentation
  - pollutant run-off from coastal development and agricultural practices
  - sun screen
  - overfishing which causes changes in the food web
  - invasive species including invasive seaweeds

## Celebrating Anguilla's Seagrass Beds

- Seagrasses are flowering plants that live under water in the sea.
- Their leaves have veins and their roots anchor them to the seabed. They use sunlight to grow and live in shallow water (1-3m). They provide shelter to an incredibly diverse community of animals - including tiny invertebrates, crabs, large fish, turtles, marine mammals, and birds. They provide coastal protection, regulate nutrients, filter and capture silt particles, absorb carbon dioxide, helping to reduce global levels of the greenhouse gas.
- Some of Anguilla's largest seagrass beds can be found at Island Harbour, Little Bay, and Rendezvous Bay.



For more information about Anguilla's seagrass beds, contact:

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