



Seagrass Priority Resource Conservation Targets and Metrics

Cover/abundance (Braun-Blanquet)

- Frequency of occurrence
- Presence/absence (by species)
- Density: shoot counts, %
- Abundance
- Species composition

Extent (continuous and patchy)

- Acres/hectares

Density/percent cover/structure

- Density
- Percent: Braun-Blanquet
- Biomass (above/below)
- Height: cm

Depth of occurrence (deep edge)

- Meters

Floristics (coverage within bed, incl. all SAV, metrics used to calculate biomass)

- Percent cover (Braun-Blanquet), by species
- Density

Water chemistry (contaminants, chemistry, clarity; things that lead to major die-offs)

- Salinity: ppt
- Contaminants: mg/L
- Temperature: degrees
- Color: Platinum cobalt units (PCU)
- Suspended solids: mg/L
- Turbidity: NTU
- Colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM)
- Light attenuation: Kd
- Chlorophyll A: $\mu\text{g/L}$
- Dissolved oxygen: mg/L, %
- pH

Water quality (pollution, sewage/septic discharge, agricultural/industrial/residential runoff)

- Salinity: ppt
- Turbidity: NTU
- DO: mg/L, %, ppm
- pH



- TSS
- CDOM
- Chlorophyll A: $\mu\text{g/L}$
- Nutrient load: NPK
- Light attenuation: Kd
- Photosynthetically active radiation (PAR): $\mu\text{Einstein/lux}$
- Harmful algal blooms (HABs): cells/L
- HABs: frequency and duration
- N/P ratio
- Sulfides

Water clarity

- CDOM
- Turbidity: NTU
- Secchi depth: m
- PAR
- Depth at deep edge
- Light attenuation: Kd
- Chlorophyll A: $\mu\text{g/L}$

Faunal assemblage (key indicators: sea turtles, scallops, shrimp, crabs, spotted sea trout, urchin, macroinvertebrates, seahorses, starfish, sponges, corals, tunicates)

- Density
- Presence/absence
- Sea turtles (juveniles)
- Catch per unit effort (CPUE)

Faunal communities (fishes, invertebrates, nursery habitat)

- Community structure: proportion by species
- Species richness: number
- Abundance
- Density
- Size class by species
- Length frequency

Fisheries (key indicators: forage fish: snook, drum, spotted sea trout, mullet, sea horses; crustaceans: spiny lobster, pink shrimp; scallops)

- Harvest data
- CPUE
- Density (pre/post scallop season)
- Presence



Macroinvertebrates (key indicators: bivalves, sea snails, urchins)

- Density
- Abundance
- Percent cover
- Presence/absence
- Harvest data