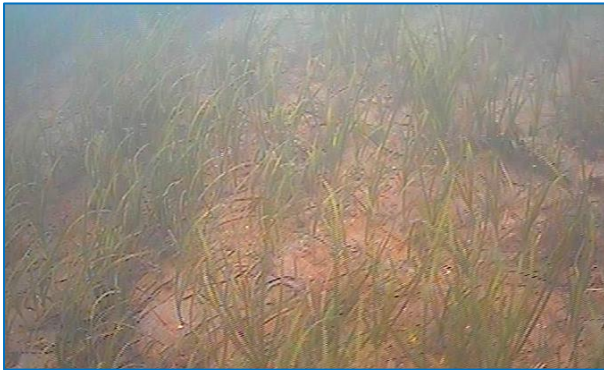


General news – October 2017

Seagrass survey success



The survey of seagrass across the Torbay area was successfully completed with nine beds mapped over nine days. Analysis of the data is currently underway and the beds are now being mapped on a geographical information system.

The survey results will help to monitor the health of local seagrass, which acts as a natural sea defence by trapping sediment and slowing down currents and waves. The beds provide a haven for juvenile fish including cod, plaice and pollock, as well as storing large amounts of carbon and acting as a natural cleaner for coastal waters.



The Torre Abbey bed appeared healthy and extensive in the survey, while shoals of bass, cuttlefish and spider crabs were filmed thriving in the Broadsands to Elberry Cove bed.

Storms, disease, pollution and poor water clarity, often caused by land runoff, can have devastating effects on seagrass and wildlife near our shores. Physical damage to the beds can also occur from contact with boat propellers and chain moorings, and although seagrass is hardy enough to recover from most physical impacts, when damage is done to the roots the plants may never recover.

The survey suggested that the IFCA's management of mobile gear used in the Torbay Marine Conservation Zone was working effectively. The full findings will be included in a report due in December.

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