Saltmarsh Ecosystem

Saltmarsh ecosystems consist of flowering herbs and low shrubs that fringe most continents on the planet, linking land with sea.

Healthy saltmarsh ecosystems provide feeding and breeding habitats for fish and birds, protects coastal communities from storm damage, limits sea-level rise, filters water, reduces turbidity and supports tourism and recreational activities.

Blue Carbon Sequestration

Saltmarsh ecosystems are one of the most effective carbon sinks on earth; burying organic carbon into the soil 55 times faster than tropical rainforests and can store carbon for thousands of years.

Be a local hero

Protect saltmarsh ecosystems

Beaded Glasswort (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*) – Nick Thoms

Decade of Restoration

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean in the next 9 years. Port Phillip Bay has already lost ~65% of saltmarsh since European arrival. When saltmarsh ecosystems are degraded, the stored carbon is released as greenhouse gas to the atmosphere. There has never been a more urgent need to revive damaged ecosystems than now.

How Can I Help?

- Prevent stock from grazing saltmarsh and remove levies
- Avoid walking or driving through saltmarsh
- Join a local conservation group to help with weeding
- Reconsider developing saltmarsh ecosystems



Shrubby Glasswort (*Tecticornia arbuscula*) – Bernadette Lingham

Help us protect our local saltmarsh habitat.

www.environmentbellarine.org.au

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