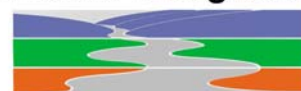


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Noosa Integrated



Catchment Assn. Inc.

Our catchment is in our care...

24th August 2010

Sunshine Coast Marine Biodiversity Assessment Invitation to Public Meeting

Wed 15th Sept 2010, 6-8 pm (refreshment from 5:45 pm)

Coolum-Peregian RSL & Services Club (1906 David Low Way, Coolum)



In July, a team of marine scientists specializing on corals, fish and molluscs conducted a series of biodiversity surveys on the shallow reefs from Noosa to Caloundra. On 15th Sept, the team will present their scientific findings to the general public and you are invited.

From the 14 survey sites, the scientists recorded 222 species of fish and 144 species of corals and relatives such as soft corals, sea fans and anemones. Some of the coral species found are uncommon in the tropical waters of the Great Barrier Reef although most of the reef fish recorded are tropical species. Among the fish recorded, fisheries targeted species, including both food and ornamental species, were noticeably low in abundance.

The scientists also compiled a list of 835 species of molluscs for the region. Ten percent of these are known only from the temperate/tropical overlap section of the East coast. Some are new to science. Interestingly, there are signs of increase in tropical species and decrease in temperate species in the area, potentially resulting from warming sea temperatures.

To hear more about these new findings and the implications for marine planning and management, come along to the meeting on the 15th Sept. In addition to the science, audience will also be treated to some great footage of the fascinating marine creatures encountered during the survey, courtesy of Josh Jensen of Undersea Productions.

The Noosa Integrated Catchment Association (NICA) wish to thank the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Norman Wettenhall Foundation, Underwater World, University of the Sunshine Coast and SEQ Catchments for supporting the survey and the planned public meeting.

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Below is a brief introduction of the speakers:

Dr. Lyndon DeVantier, a long-term coast local, is a coral ecologist. He has worked with many international agencies and governments over the past 25 years, from Arabia to SE Asia, Australasia, Polynesia and Micronesia. Lyndon's career goals are to improve understanding of the structure and function of coral reefs, and to assist in the development of effective management for their long-term sustainability, for the benefit of local people and the global community. Lyndon has coauthored more than 150 research papers and technical reports and is a member of the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Specialist Group on reef-building corals.

Dr. David Williamson, a fish ecologist based at James Cook University, has worked on the Great Barrier Reef, in SE Asia and the Pacific. David's main research area focuses on reef fish communities and larval dispersal. In recent years, he has assessed the changes in fish communities following rezoning of the GBR Marine Park. His previous work in Noosa examined fish communities before and after extension of rock walls near the mouth of the Noosa River .

Mr. Josh Jensen of [Undersea Productions](#) learned to dive at age 15 and was hooked for life. After completing his degree in Marine Biology, he went on to work in the SCUBA diving industry for a decade - teaching, guiding and filming. He now films full time. Josh is also the "Face of Australia" for The Underwater Channel. During the Sunshine Coast survey, Josh documented the sealife encountered and the key findings.

For more information, go to NICA webpage

http://www.noosariver.com.au/index.php?article=marine_biodiversity_assessment

Contact NICA Education Officer Catherine Cheung at 0488 967 056 or email:

cpscheung@generalmail.com RSVP 13th Sept.

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