

ATKINS

St Lucia Coastal Habitat Mapping Project

Improving Our Understanding through
training and awareness raising



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St Lucian Coastal Habitats

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St Lucian Coastal Habitats

- Review of habitats found as part of the coastal habitat mapping project
- Habitat information was collected during field surveys
- Marine habitats were surveyed using drop-down video, snorkel and surface viewer
- Coastal (land) habitats surveyed using direct observation and site visits
- Features of interest and health indicators also noted
- Database entry for each location and photographic and video record.

Marine Habitats - Physical

- PHYSICAL
- MU Mud
- SA Sand
- CR Coral rubble
- CRB Carbonate rock/boulders
- MXD Mixed carbonate sand/rock/rubble
- TRB Terrigenous rock/boulders
- CON Construction (jetty/dock)
- COB Pebbles

Marine Habitats - Biological

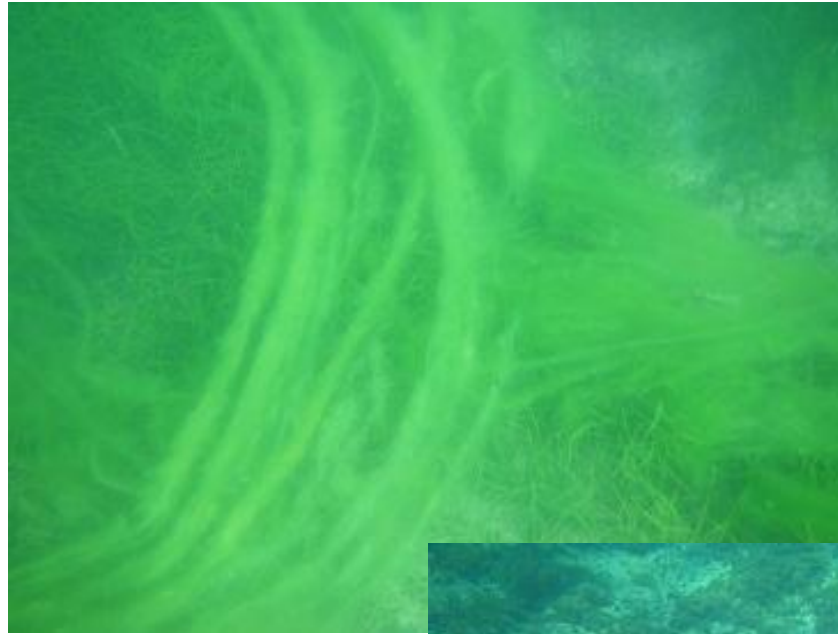
- SRV Submersed rooted vegetation
 - THL Thalassia
 - SYG Syringodium
 - HAP Halophila
- MA Macroalgae
 - HAL Halimeda
 - BRW Brown
 - GRN Green
- MSG Mixed seagrass/algae (neither dominant)
- MAT Cyanobacterial/microfilamentous algal mat
- GOR Gorgonians (soft corals)
- REC Reef corals
- SPO Sponges
- MIX Mixed gorgonian/coral/sponge
- INF Infauna present
- FT Faunal Turf
- NOB No obvious biological cover or infauna
- OTH Other biological cover (specified)

Marine Habitats - Biological

- SEAGRASS
- 3 Main types
 - Halophila
 - Syringodium
 - Thalassia



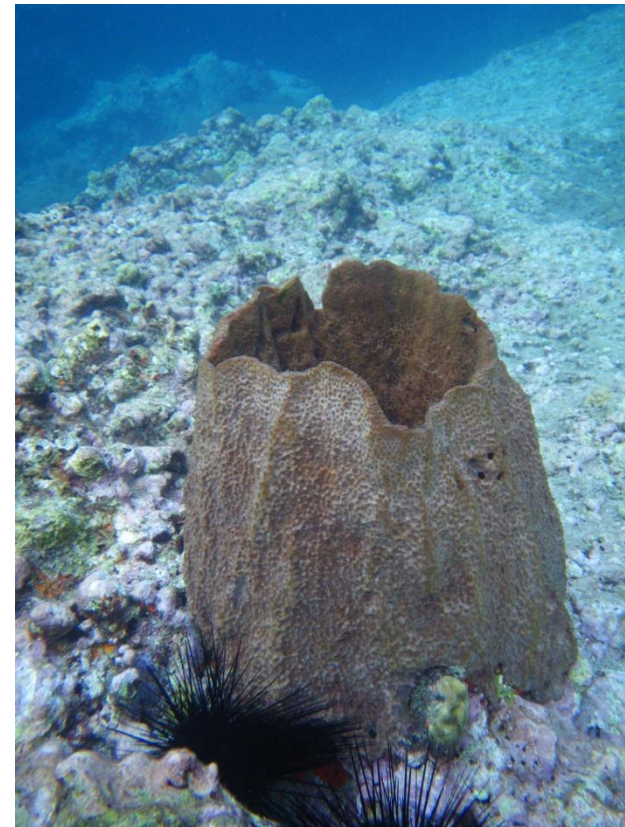
Macroalgae



- Green Algae in places
- Brown Algae in places but few macroalgal dominated reefs



Sponges



Gorgonians



Reefs – Coral Dominated





FUGRO GEOID



Coastal habitats

- Mangroves
- Beaches
- Cliffs
- Wetlands

Mangroves

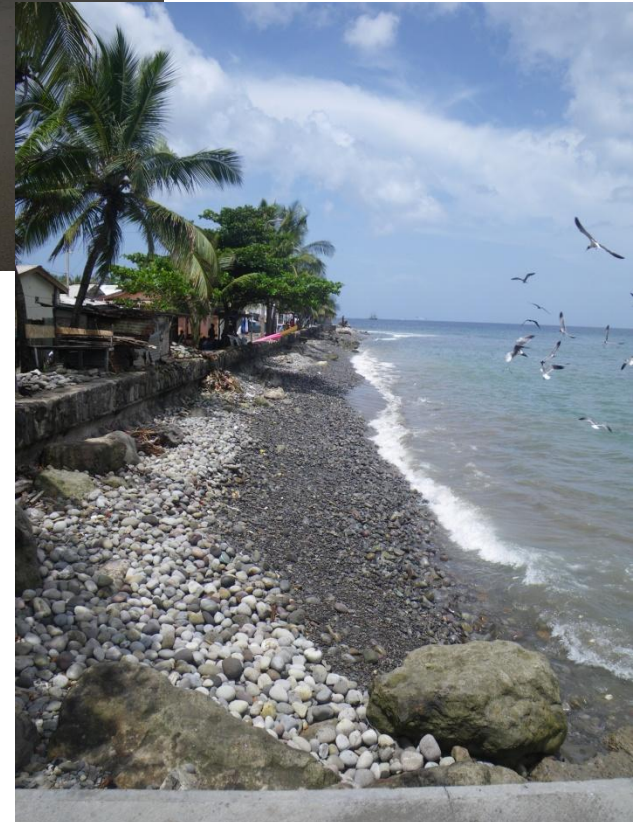
- Various Types
- Red and Black are predominant
- White and Buttonwood are present in places



Beaches



Range from white sand beaches, sedimentary sand to cobble and pebbles





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Cliffs





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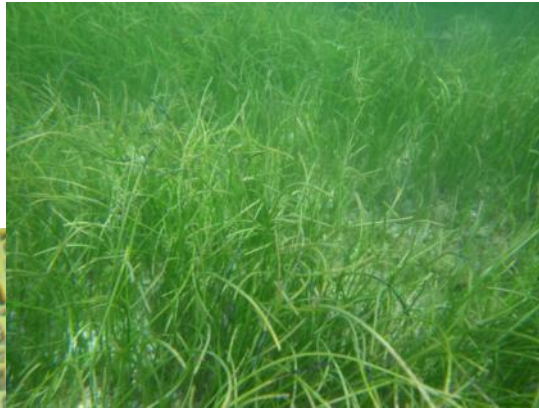
Wetlands



July 7 – 8, 2009

Habitat mapping, St Lucia. Training

Biodiverse Habitats



Some Evidence of Stress



Overview

- Diverse Range of Habitats
- Some issues
- Some positives
- GIS Mapping database is a valuable resource

