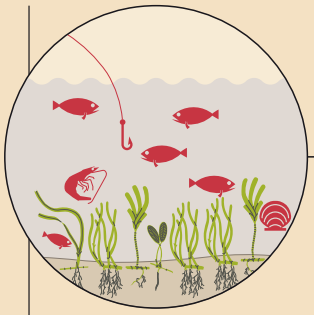
SEAGRASS ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

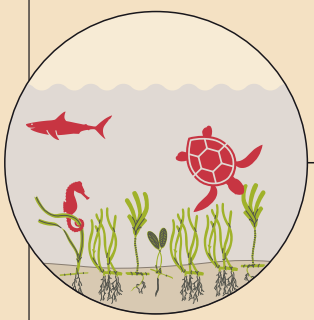
FISHERIES

SEAGRASSES SUPPORT GLOBAL FISHERIES AND PROVIDE NURSERY HABITATS FOR COMMERCIALLY TARGETED FISH, BIVALVE AND CRUSTACEAN SPECIES.



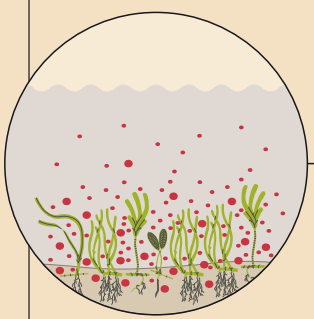
BIODIVERSITY

SEAGRASS MEADOWS ARE HOTSPOTS OF MARINE BIODIVERSITY, INCLUDING PROTECTED AND CHARISMATIC SPECIES SUCH AS DUGONGS, SEA TURTLES, SHARKS AND SEAHORSES.



WATER FILTRATION

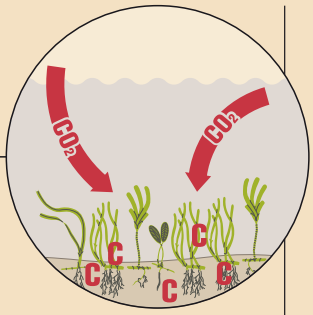
SEAGRASSES ARE NATURAL FILTERS TRAPPING SEDIMENTS AND EXCESSIVE NUTRIENTS OUT OF THE WATER.



DISEASE CONTROL

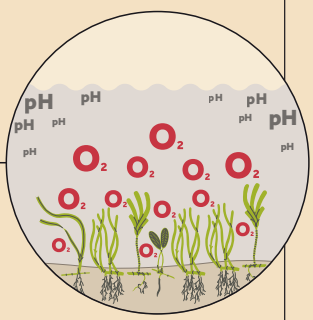
SEAGRASSES CONTROL HUMAN, FISH AND CORAL DISEASES BY REDUCING EXPOSURE TO PATHOGENS.





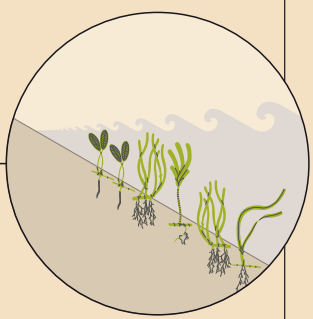
CLIMATE REGULATION

SEAGRASS MEADOWS STORE LARGE AMOUNTS OF CARBON IN THE BIOMASS AND SEDIMENT BELOW, HELPING TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE.



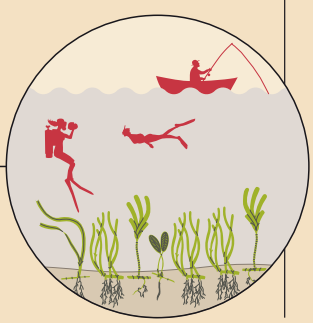
OCEAN ACIDIFICATION BUFFER

SEAGRASS MEADOWS REGULATE THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF SEAWATER BY RELEASING OXYGEN AND REMOVING CARBON DIOXIDE DURING DAYLIGHT, OXYGENATING WATER AND BUFFERING OCEAN ACIDIFICATION.



COASTAL PROTECTION

SEAGRASSES PREVENT COASTAL EROSION AND PROTECT FROM FLOODING AND STORM SURGES.



TOURISM

SEAGRASS MEADOWS PROVIDE CULTURAL SERVICES SUCH AS SENSE OF IDENTITY FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES (E.G. BIRDWATCHING, DIVING, FISHING).

Source: GRID-Arendal (2020).