



Seagrass Scars

Equipment required

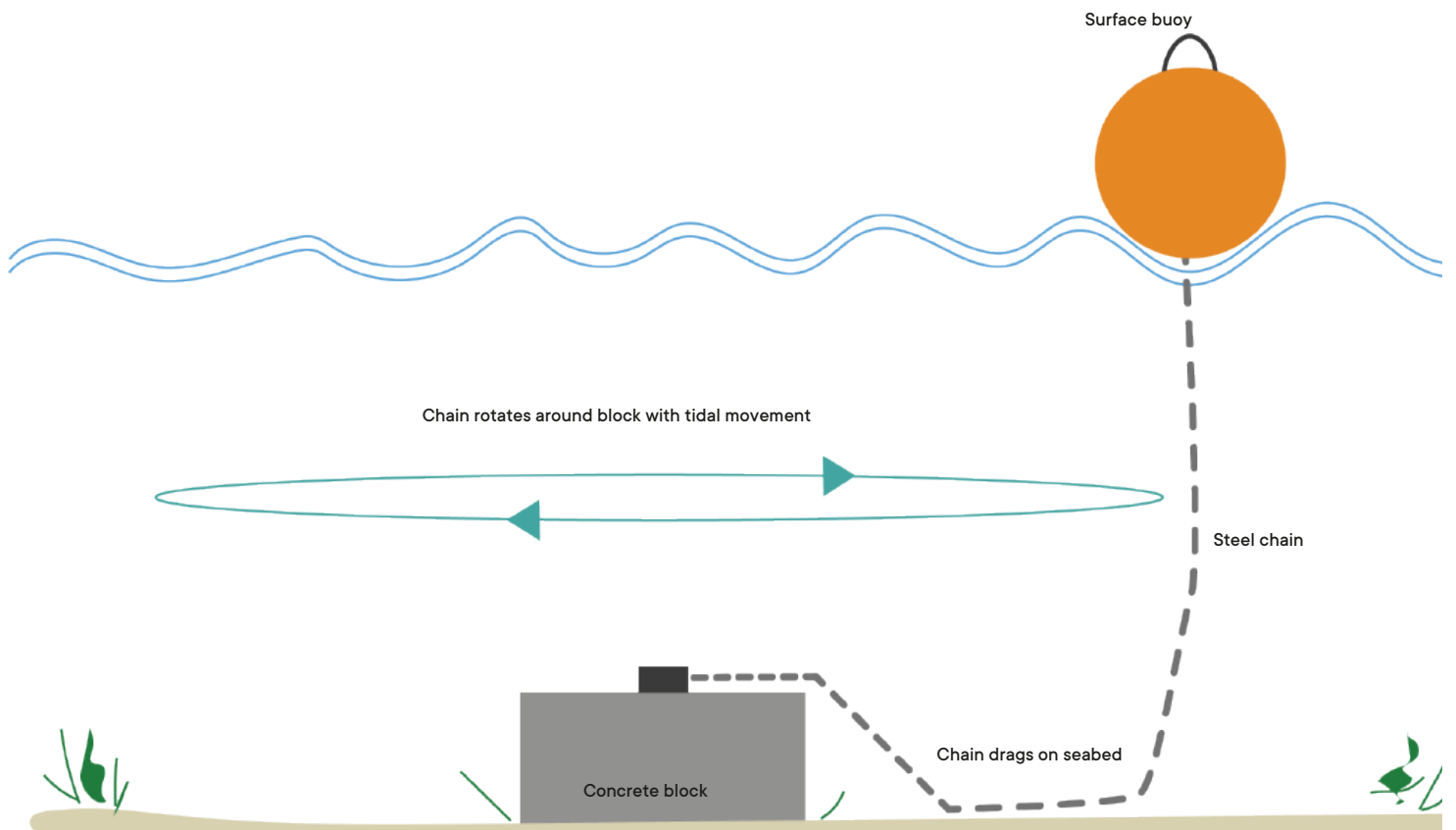
- Print out of the 'Seagrass Scars' worksheet, one per pair
- Print out or share the photos on sheet (S_S_2), one per class/group
- Paper
- Art materials
- Internet enabled devices and internet access

To complete the activity

1. Share the 'Seagrass Ocean Rescue' video with the learners – www.tiramor.cymru/seagrass (Resource 1). Discuss with learners the main threats to seagrass ecosystems mentioned in the video and their impact on marine life.
2. Share the 'Seagrass Scars' worksheet (S_S_2). Provide an opportunity for learners to discuss what they can see in the image and describe any features they notice. What impact do learners think the moorings might have on seagrass meadows?
3. Challenge learners to find out further causes of seagrass decline, researching and recording any findings on the 'Seagrass Scar' worksheet.
4. Encourage learners to consider the scar caused by each stressor, creating a pattern or symbol to represent the scar.
5. Using the patterns or scars created, provide each pair of learners with art materials such as paints, markers, or paper to design a visual representation of seagrass and the stressors affecting it.
6. Ask learners to share their artwork with the class, explaining the stressors they illustrated and their potential impact on seagrass.

ANSWER KEY

Stressor	Potential impact on Seagrass
Boat moorings (chains)	Scouring of the seagrass, resulting in the removal of shoots.
Boat keels	Creation of short ditches through the meadow and damage to seagrass shoots.
Boat scouring	Scouring of the seagrass as boats land on seagrass at low tide, resulting in damage or removal of shoots.
Anchors	Dropping anchors in seagrass beds damages shoots, especially as anchors are recovered.
Tractors	Compression of sediments, creation of tracks through meadows, and damage to seagrass shoots.
Dumping of fishery waste	Lobster and brown crab shell waste suffocates seagrass.
Digging seagrass by shellfish gatherers	Loss and disturbance of seagrass.
Coastal development	Loss and disturbance of seagrass through habitat destruction.
Pollution (oil spills and chemicals)	Contamination of water reduces seagrass health and affects associated ecosystems.
Climate change (rising water temperatures)	Increased temperatures stress seagrass, potentially leading to die-offs.
Sea level rise	Alteration of light availability and changes in suitable seagrass habitat due to deeper waters.
Algae overgrowth	Excess nutrients from pollution causing thick algae to block sunlight.
Marine litter	Plastic waste and debris can entangle and suffocate seagrass.





Research and record the causes of seaweed decline:

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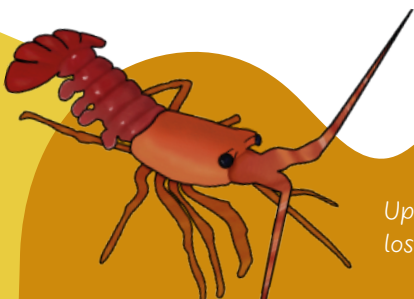
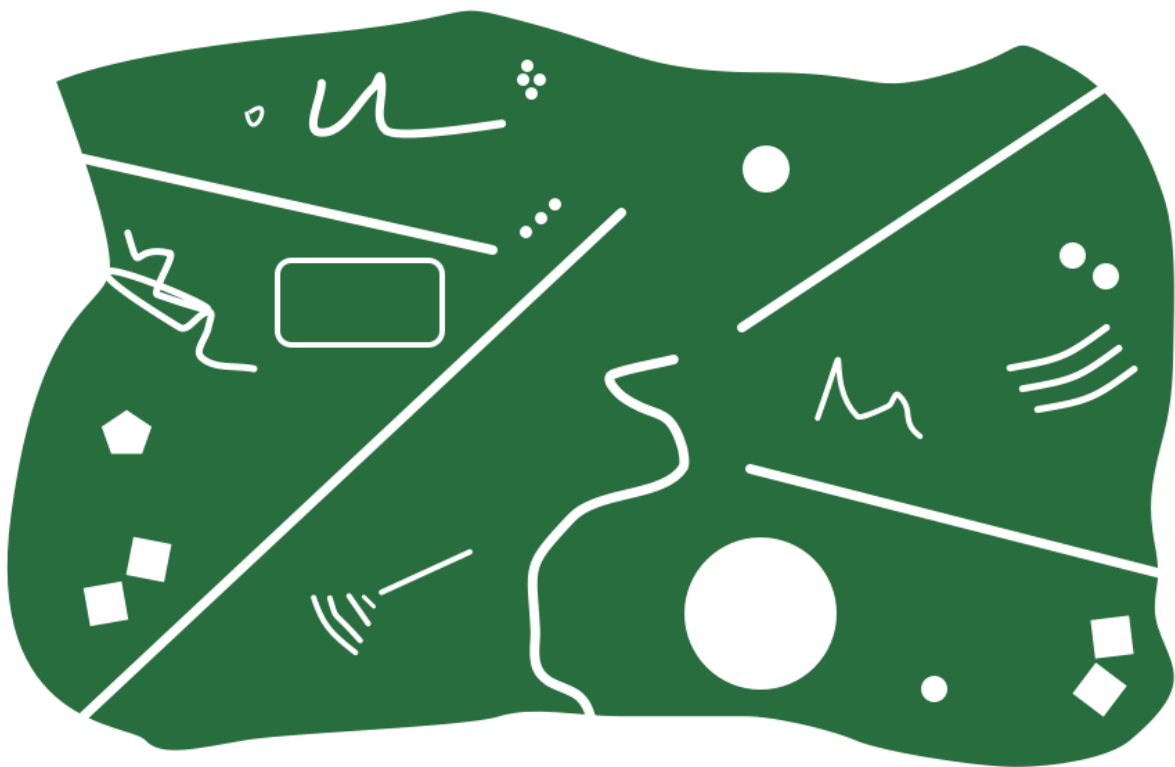
Seagrass Scars



Create an abstract artwork inspired by the scars and patterns caused by human impacts on seagrass meadows, such as tracks or boat propellers. Use lines, shapes, and colours to visually represent these effects.

Reflect on your design and explain how it illustrates the challenges seagrass faces due to human impacts.

Discuss what actions can be taken to protect and restore these vital ecosystems.



Up to 92% of seagrass has been lost in the UK in the last century.