

31 July 2011

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is with pleasure that I provide a brief update on the activities carried out by the World Seagrass Association over the last couple of months.

The Management Committee last met on June 29, 2011, so here I resume few updates on what we recently achieved and what is planned for the third quarter of 2011.

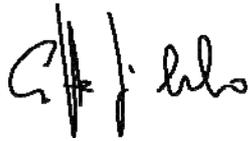
- The WSA has four new members, two from Australia, one from the USA and one from the Mediterranean. Of those, Christine Pergent is now part of our Steering Committee.
- Earlier in the year, we sent out a questionnaire to capture ideas, initiatives and needs within the seagrass community that the Association can address and/or support. We have received little response for the questionnaire and we ask that you find some time to fill this out at your earliest convenience. Additionally, please feel free to share the questionnaire with other fellow seagrassers interested in the Association or to help us contact other members.
- We continue to use social media to engage the global seagrass community into the Association and to provide networking opportunities. We have a blog that features stories, videos, etc to raise awareness of seagrasses worldwide. We are looking for “bloggers” so please contact us if you are willing to write stories from the field, share photos, videos, etc.
- We finally completed the seagrass syllabus. This is a modular textbook to be used for education purposes, for training resources managers on the importance of seagrass ecosystem, how to monitor and manage them. The syllabus will be available online after a launch event foreseen for early September. This has been one of the WSA most important achievements and we are confident that this will be a useful tool for the worldwide community.

In the next couple of months, the WSA will work to provide guidelines for the organization of future ISBWs (next one is to be held in Brazil), and to define its mission and vision.

We will continue to send quarterly letters to update the members on the activities of the WSA. This is to keep you informed and engaged into the Association and we hope you find this useful.

Please remember that the Association is self-sustained and that it is critical that its members become more active to support activities, provide ideas, seek opportunities and dedicate their time.

All the best,



Dr. Giuseppe Di Carlo  
*President*  
*World Seagrass Association Inc.*

