

STEVE PURSELL, OZFISH PROGRAM MANAGER WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

About 80% or more of the seagrass in Cockburn Sound has been lost in the past 50 years. This is mostly due to historic pollution and poor water quality. Things have improved and the water quality is at a better place now. So it's a great time to be doing restoration work.

I'm Steve Pursell, I'm the program manager for OzFish in Western Australia.

So OzFish is Australia's recreational fishing conservation charity.

Any project we can get involved with that improves where fish are living, either restoring, enhancing or renewing fish habitat.

So Seeds for Snapper is the biggest community driven seagrass restoration project in Australia.

What we do, is a three step process. We collect the seagrass fruit, mostly through our volunteer dive team, then we process the fruit in the tanks you can see behind us here.

And then the third step is releasing the seed that comes out of the fruit. And we do that out into Cockburn Sound.

We've got the MMA team down today. A bunch of the guys are out there diving, collecting the fruit, but most of the team is back here helping us process the fruit.

We circulate the fruit in these processing tanks for a couple of days.

The fruit will pop open and the seed drops to the bottom, leaving the husk of the fruit floating on the surface.

What the volunteers behind us are doing today is they're separating that husk from the fresh fruit to keep our tanks nice and clean and circulating properly.

The volunteers today are counting out seeds over here and the seeds that they've counted out today will be dropped down at C.Y. O'Connor Beach tomorrow for the community seeding event.

The wave attenuation reef there constructed by MMA is going to have a bunch of seagrass growing on it next year, we hope.

PROFESSOR GARY KENDRICK, UNIVERISTY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

It's been a wonderful year for collecting seed and getting it out in situ.

I'm Professor Gary Kendrick from University Western Australia.

My role here is as the technical expert in seagrasses and the developer of the methodologies that we're using with OzFish.

This is a great day, we've got lots of young people working on various projects, including marine pollution, seed delivery.

It's good, it's very good.

Seagrasses are important to me, not just because of the plant, but because of what they do for the environment.

They actually protect beaches from swell, they bury carbon, they are incredibly important in fisheries and especially recreational fishing.

As long as we keep doing this, we'll have seagrasses in our nearshore waters in and around Perth.

STEVE PURSELL, OZFISH PROGRAM MANAGER WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

Thank you to MMA, not only for sending all their staff down to help out today, but also coming on as a corporate sponsor, which has been fantastic, really helped us move the project along.