

Project Update: February 2015

School's Awareness Programme



Pudukudi Government Middle School in October 2014



Thillaililagam Government Middle School in October 2014



Kattumavadi Government Higher Secondary School in November 2014



Mallipattinam Higher Secondary School in November 2014



Rajamadam Government Higher Secondary School in November 2014.

A total number of 347 students participated in our school level dugong awareness events held in October and November 2014 at five schools. The dugong stickers were also distributed to students across all the schools visited. The students were invited to visit Palk Bay Cetnre in 2015 summer camp.

Dugong Awareness Stickers Distribution in School's

1000 stickers were printed and being distributed to students





Acoustic survey was conducted to create GIS map of seagrass beds in the project area. A total number of five transects were covered inside the project area. As a continuation of our previous and ongoing project in northern part of Palk Bay, this project has add on data and extension of seagrass survey in northern Palk Bay. We have totally covered 220 square km of area in the past two years by using acoustic technique, in which 12,200 hectares of seagrass beds were mapped in the past two years. This project has contributed a part of this large area to cover 95 km².

The below pictures were taken during our seagrass (dugong feeding habitat) acoustic survey in our research boat.



Seagrass mapping in progress with DGPS and laptop



Laptop connected with GPS – showing survey transects and boat orientation



Dr. Balaji, Director of OMCAR Foundation inside the boat cabin which is modified fishing boat for this survey



This interesting sample showed the mixed seagrass beds consist of *Syringoidum isoetifolium* (dugong grass) and *Cymodocea serrulata* during the survey