

Poster: Bringing the Beach to You - South Coast

Region

South Coast

Summary

Explore the beach flotsam and jetsam of the South Coast bioregion.

BRINGING THE BEACH TO YOU

SOUTH COAST REGION



WIREWEED

Wireweed forms large beds (meadows) in sandy areas. Seagrasses may provide nursery areas for juvenile fish.



SEA LETTUCE

This green algae is edible and is also an important food source for marine life, such as abalone.



SARGASSUM

Sargassum, meaning 'floating seaweed' in Spanish, is a type of brown algae. The small bubbles help it float in the water column.



KELP

Kelp is commonly found washed ashore after rough seas. It mainly grows on limestone reefs, attaching itself with a holdfast.



SEA WRACK

Sea wracks are made up of seagrass and seaweeds that form piles along the beach. They are home to many small invertebrates that recycle the nutrients and are themselves an important source of food in the coastal food web.



STRAPWEED & SEAGRASS FRUITS

Strapweed or *Posidonia* is a common seagrass in the southern part of WA. Seagrasses are extremely important in stabilising the sandy sea bed. Seagrasses, like grasses on land produce flowers (fruits - inset) and seeds.



NEPTUNE'S NECKLACE

This distinctive looking algae grows on sheltered reefs from Albany to the east coast of south Australia. It can grow densely, forming a protective microhabitat where molluscs, worms and crustaceans shelter.



VELVET SPONGE WEED

Similar to dead man's fingers, velvet sponge weed has a firm but spongy texture and grows in irregular shapes. Another similar alga is the velvet golf ball.



PADDLEWEED

Paddleweed is easy to recognise by its oval leaves. Unlike strapweed and wireweed, it does not form large beds (meadows).



DEAD MAN'S FINGERS

This green algae has tube-like forked branches, a firm but spongy texture and belongs to a group of algae called *Codium*.



FIBRE BALL

These furry balls that wash up on the beach come from the seagrass *Posidonia* or strapweed. The leaves break off from the stem and are rolled into a ball by the waves and currents.



RED ALGAE

Red algae are generally the most abundant algae in deep water as they can tolerate lower light conditions than their relatives. The colour can be bleached in dead specimens from yellow to green to white.



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