

# EELGRASS FUN FACTS

Eelgrass is NOT a seaweed; it is a **MARINE PLANT!** It has flowers and seeds and underground roots called **RHIZOMES**.

Eelgrass has long, bright green leaves that look like ribbons!

Eelgrass communities are among the **RICHEST** in the world! Many crabs, clams, fish, plankton, sponges, sea urchins, sea stars and worms find food and shelter in eelgrass beds.

Eelgrass beds can be found on muddy, sandy or gravelly bottoms just below the low tide line in sheltered bays and estuaries.

Eelgrass beds are **NURSERY GROUNDS** for baby fish such as herring and pipefish!

Eelgrass can grow very fast; up to 5 millimeters in one day!

Human impacts on eelgrass beds have been devastating! Boat propellers can rip up eelgrass!

Eelgrass beds need sunlight to grow. Building docks over eelgrass can block sunlight and cause eelgrass beds to disappear!

