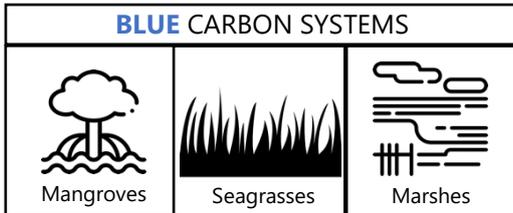


# EELGRASS: A Climate Hero

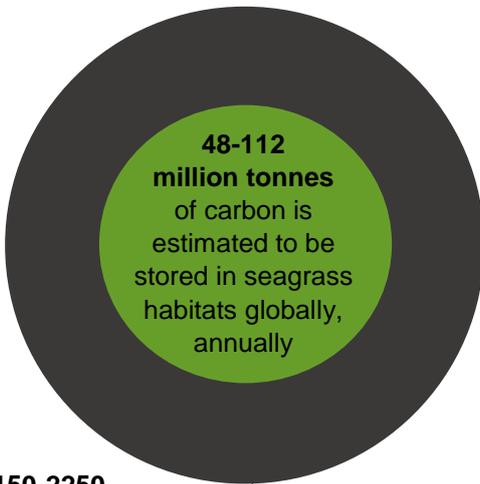
Eelgrasses provide a myriad of ecosystem services, including storing organic carbon, known as 'blue carbon,' in their stems, roots, and sediments!

- A commonly distributed species of seagrass
- Located in the shallow areas of temperate estuaries
- Helps to regulate water quality, stabilize shorelines, and provides crucial breeding and nursery habitats for fish, such as salmon and herring

## BLUE CARBON FACTS



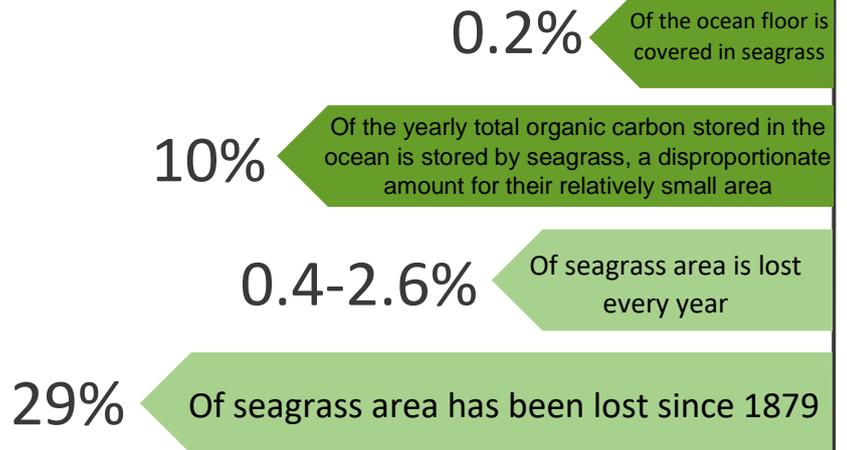
Some blue carbon systems can store carbon up to 12x faster than terrestrial forests!



150-2250 million tonnes

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) released into the atmosphere annually

## SEAGRASS across the Globe



Despite the ecological importance of seagrass, these habitats are among the most threatened ecosystems on Earth due to agriculture, forestry and commercial development.

When seagrass ecosystems are disturbed or destroyed, the carbon stored in their soils can be released back into the ocean and atmosphere, shifting these systems from carbon sinks to sources.

There is a **lack of detailed data** on blue carbon systems, specifically seagrass, along the Pacific Coast of Canada.

While global estimates are available, we need **locally specific** estimates of carbon storage, and emissions values.

Applying **broad estimates** of carbon storage can result in over- or underestimating a system's carbon storage potential.

**Understanding blue carbon habitats** will be important for incorporating them into conservation planning and climate change mitigation on the Pacific Coast of Canada.

Seagrasses form dense underwater meadows!



There are 26,348 km<sup>2</sup> of seagrass meadows existing along the Canadian coastlines

790 km<sup>2</sup> (3%)

Seagrass meadows that are mapped along the Canadian coastlines