



Why Restore?

Image: Dave Harasti

Sydney Harbour is one of the most biodiverse harbours in the world. It is home to twice as many fish species than the entire coastline of the UK. Centuries of urbanisation and industrialisation have led to the loss of key habitats.

Specifically there has been significant loss of *Posidonia* meadows (seagrass) which is not only an ecologically important system but is also a key habitat to species such as the endangered white's seahorse due to water pollution, dredging and the development of marinas in bays and inlets where *Posidonia* meadows thrived.

Contact Us.

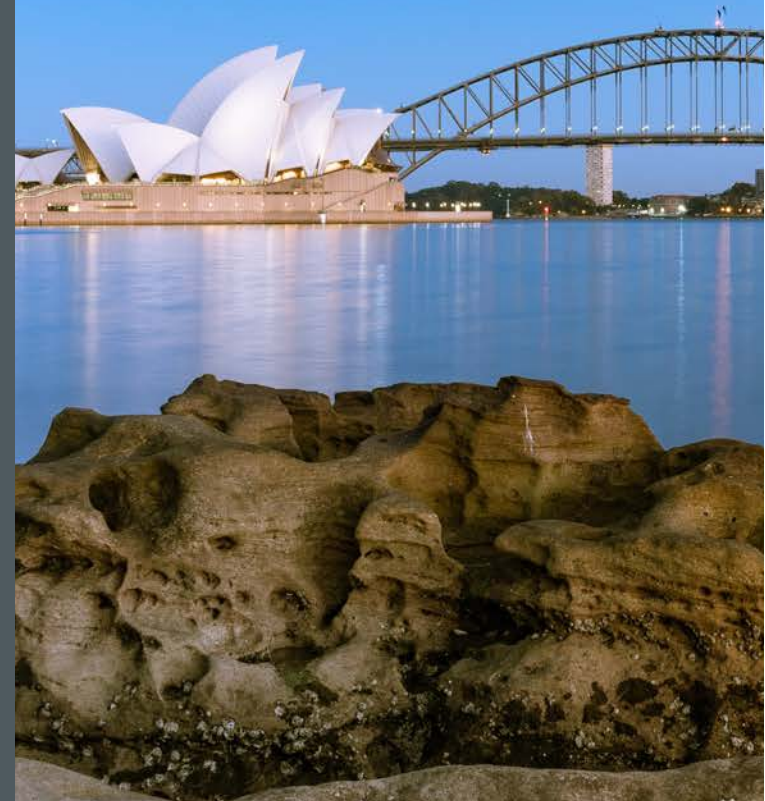
Learn more about the CSIRO research into EFM's:

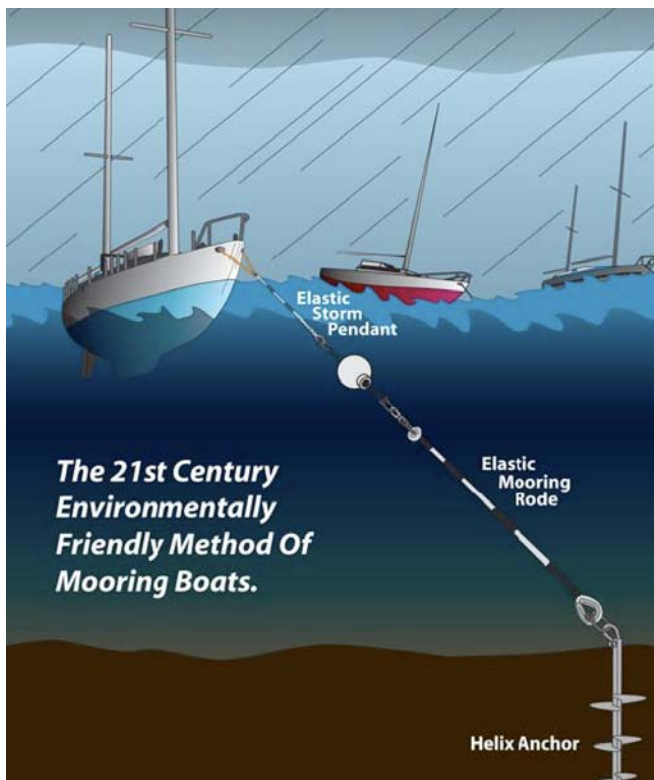


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PROJECT RESTORE

Restoring Sydney Harbour's Seascapes





The solution

A transition to Environmentally Friendly Moorings, that do not have swinging chain components is needed to halt the decline of *Posidonia* in Sydney. Once the moorings are replaced, the slow growth rate of *Posidonia* means that natural re-establishment of bare areas would take many decades, and hence active restoration is needed to accelerate recovery.

Operation Posidonia has developed a creative solution for restoring seagrass meadows without damaging existing meadows by using *Posidonia* fragments that become naturally de-tached from meadows during stormy conditions.

Fragments with rhizomes (which anchors them to the seafloor) can then be replanted underwater.

These fragments will be monitored over the course of three years to ensure that the restoration is a success.



Environmentally Friendly Moorings

Operation Posidonia, the team behind the seagrass restoration within Project Restore, began with a proof-of-concept project in Port Stephens in 2018. Citizen scientists collected over 1,500 *Posidonia* fragments, which were used in the restoration of old mooring scars with great survival over the course of a year.

Restoration was combined with the introduction of Environmentally Friendly Moorings in partnership with Transport for NSW, building the evidence that these mooring designs can be compatible with seagrass rehabilitation efforts.

In Sydney, we are aiming to scale up the restoration of *Posidonia* beds in up to 16 mooring scars. Your support is key to bring back these endangered beds back to life!

The Project



Find out more

Project Restore will be one of the first, globally, to move beyond habitat-by-habitat restoration and will provide an example of how multi-habitat restoration can be conducted. The outcomes are predicted to provide ecological and socio-economic benefits.

This project is seeking to restore degraded seascapes and biodiversity in up to 11 locations within Sydney Harbour. Across these locations, we are aiming to replace up to 16 swing moorings with Environmentally Friendly Moorings, in order to restore *Posidonia* meadows underneath.

Generously funded by the NSW Environmental Trust, and in partnership with NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Division as part of the Seabirds to Seascape Program – Protecting Coastal Biodiversity, Project Restore aims to enhance and regenerate urban marine habitats through recovering lost seagrass meadows, enhancing kelp forests, installing living seawalls panels, and deploying artificial fish habitats at key sites within the Harbour.



Image: John Turnbull