



### **Defending our Environment**

In comparing the dive footage of Huon Island and Lady Bay, NOFF's marine biologist consultant comments:

The footage from Lady Bay shows a stable, healthy ecosystem. The seaweeds (note especially the *Macrocystis* kelp in the longer version of the video) look strong and healthy, as does the coralline alga growing on the rocks on the bottom and the smaller sea grasses and algae. The crayfish hiding in the rocks is telling of the health of the ecosystem.

In contrast the footage from the vicinity of Huon Island shows a highly modified increased nutrient/ sediment load which is evidenced by the filamentous green algae green which can be an ecological indicator of eutrophication where excess nutrients encourage algal growth. Similarly when the weed is disturbed there is considerable turbidity creating clouds of sediment. When settled these sediments would restrict photosynthesis of the algae, resulting in barren areas and reducing biodiversity.

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