Newsletter no. 5 (May-August 2020) of the GRASS project

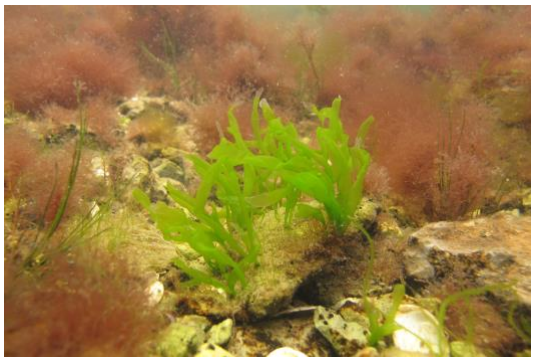
GRASS **Gr**owing **A**lgae **S**ustainably in the Baltic **S**ea

Dear Partners this is the fifth newsletter of the GRASS project, enjoy reading in the summer months!

We ended our 3rd project period and are proud to present the pan-Baltic map with environmental data of seaweed (*Fucus* and *Ulva*). We postponed our seaweed conference to March 2021 which will be organized as joint event with other Blue Bioeconomy topics as 'Better off Blue 2.0' conference.

SUBMARINER Network team

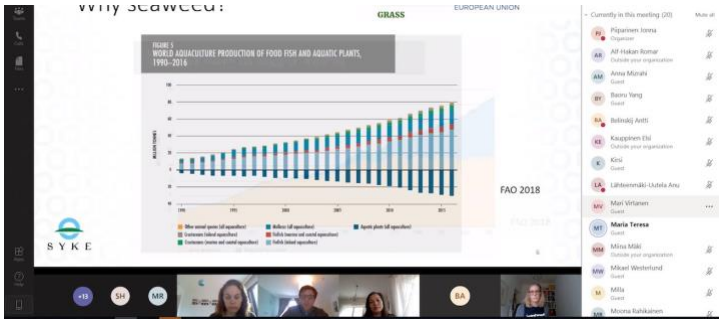
PanBaltic potential of macroalgae cultivation and of harvesting wild stocks



University of Tartu pooled together all available data on environmental proxies and algal production to quantify relationships between macroalgal production and the environment as well as to predict macroalgae production at the Baltic Sea scale. The resulting maps are useful for maritime spatial planning because they enable to detect the most suitable areas for macroalgae farming and/or beach-cast harvesting.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/check-the-panbaltic-potential-of-macroalgae-cultivation-and-of-harvesting-wild-stocks-in-the-user-friendly-odss-online-platform

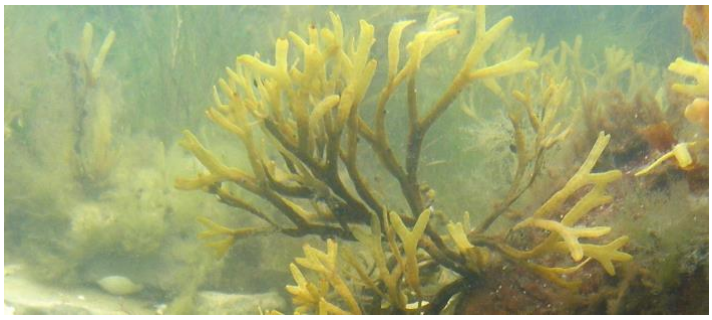
Digital stakeholder meeting with seaweed actors



The digital appointment was organized by Finnish Environment Institute SYKE in May 2020 and was dealing with cultivation of macroalgae in the Baltic Sea and use of the harvested biomass from regulatory point of view.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/4th-stakeholder-meeting-within-grass-was-organized-by-syke-in-a-digital-format

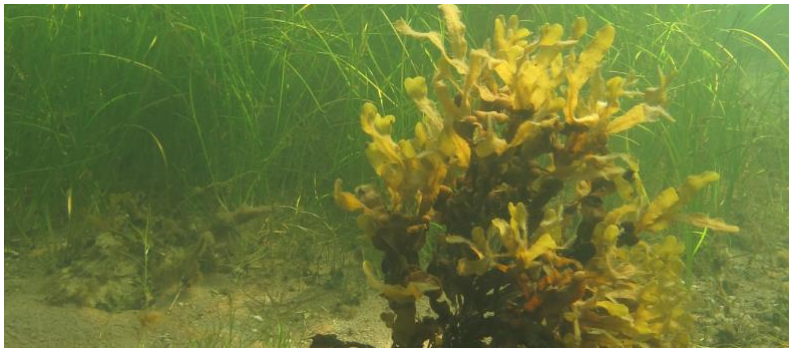
Veggie burger with algae



Make algae burger by yourself and check the recipe!

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/recipe-for-a-veggie-burger-with-algae

Seaweed resources of the Baltic Sea, Kattegat and German and Danish North Sea coasts



This publication provides an update to a detailed description of the macroalgal species distribution and diversity along SE North Sea and Baltic Sea coasts. Due to low salinity and lack of hard substrata, the Baltic Sea and Kattegat area and German and Danish North Sea coasts are characterized by a relatively low diversity of seaweeds. At the same time the areas are severely eutrophicated, which has caused extensive shifts in macroalgal communities toward opportunistic species.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/scientific-paper-seaweed-resources-of-the-baltic-sea-kattegat-and-german-and-danish-north-sea-coasts

Socioeconomic prospects of a seaweed bioeconomy in Sweden

The paper assesses the economic potential of large-scale cultivation of kelp, *Saccharina latissima*, along the Swedish west coast, including the value of externalities. The findings suggest that seaweed farming has the potential of becoming a profitable industry in Sweden.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/scientific-paper-socioeconomic-prospects-of-a-seaweed-bioeconomy-in-sweden

GRASS complemented by SUSCULT project activities

The project SUSCULT (sustainable cultivation of seaweed) is funded under the Nordic co-operation within Nordic Working Group for Oceans and Coastal Areas. It deals among other with the legislative opportunities and barriers of seaweed production in the Nordic countries and will conduct actual growth experiments and data collection of growth potential for different seaweed species.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/sustainable-cultivation-of-seaweed-suscult-project-approved

Multi-use sea farms

A new collaboration between the offshore wind industry and the nature-inclusive seaweed sector is a stepping stone for realizing Multi-use sea farms. Ørsted and Stichting Noordzeeboerderij signed a Letter of Intent in which both parties express their intention to combine 'mooring solutions with nature development in multi-use systems'.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/multi-use-sea-farms-eco-anchor-to-upscale-seaweed-production

Seaweed for plants

In March 2020, the partners of the European Bio4Safe project pressed more than 600 kg of seaweed to gain functional ingredients for biostimulants. Ocean Rainforest supplied the seaweed and Rhinetech the pressing power. This teaming up between Seaweed Platform members shows the power of the community: getting from cultivation to finished product.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/seaweed-for-plants-use-press-technology-for-biorefinery

Seaweed included in the Estonian maritime spatial plan

According to the basic research of the MSP, the areas suitable for seaweed farming are mostly located in the western part of Väinameri sea and Gulf of Finland. The maps were made with support from the project “Compiling regional aquaculture plans to manage possible environmental pressures” of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/natural-growth-potential-of-algae-in-estonian-maritime-spatial-plan

Macroalgae conference postponed

Our seaweed conference has been postponed and will take place in the week of 22nd March 2021 in West Sweden. The conference will be organized under the slogan Better off Blue 2.0 as 3 days event and will cover also other Blue Growth topics as blue biotechnology, mussels, multi-use and aquaculture.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/grass-project-conference-postponed

All about Baltic seaweed at www.balticgrass.eu