

## Newsletter no. 6 (September – December 2020) of the GRASS project

GRASS Growing Algae Sustainably in the Baltic Sea

Dear GRASS partners,

First and foremost, we send you all our cordial best wishes for a better and safer new year!

We hereby send you the 6<sup>th</sup> newsletter of the GRASS project; the first of 2021 in the final year of the GRASS project.

We have published one more report from the GoA 3.4, and two factsheets from WP2 on the website, and against all odds the GRASS PPs have completed four stakeholder meetings around the BSR with great success.

This month we will focus on setting the dates and developing the agenda of the GRASS conference.

We would like to highlight that the **European Commission is offering an open consultation** for the EU's upcoming algae strategy. The consultation will close on **18. January 2021** and Efthalia will of course submit the SUBMARINER Network's new Roadmap and the GRASS project. If you wish to contribute, please contact Efthalia directly. The process will start before end of this week:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12780-Towards-a-strong-and-sustainable-EU-Algae-sector%C2%A0>

Best wishes

SUBMARINER Network team

## GRASS NEWS:

### Macroalgae as food and feed ingredients in the Baltic Sea region – regulation by the European Union



*Photo: University of Tartu*

An inventory and dossier of existing relevant EU food safety legislation and its national application has been prepared in a report form.

Read more: <https://submariner-network.eu/macroalgae-as-food-and-feed-ingredients-in-the-baltic-sea-region-regulation-by-the-european-union>

### Two new GRASS factsheets on potential environmental impacts of seaweed production and beach-cast collection are also available:

Production potential of macroalgal growth in the Baltic Sea:

<https://submariner-network.eu/images/grass/GRASS - factsheet macroalgae.pdf>

Beach-cast growth and harvest potential in the Baltic Sea:

<https://submariner-network.eu/images/grass/GRASS - factsheet beachcast.pdf>

### Four GRASS stakeholder meetings have been completed in Poland, Germany, Estonia, and Latvia, with 10 still to go in 2021!

5<sup>th</sup> stakeholder meeting (PL): <https://submariner-network.eu/the-5th-stakeholder-meeting-of-the-grass-project-was-organized-in-poland>

6<sup>th</sup> stakeholder meeting (DE): <https://submariner-network.eu/6th-macroalgae-stakeholder-meeting-don-t-panic-we-are-organic>

7<sup>th</sup> stakeholder meeting (EE): <https://submariner-network.eu/7th-macroalgae-stakeholders-meeting>

8<sup>th</sup> stakeholder meeting (LV): <https://www.submariner-network.eu/news/75-grass-news-and-events/885-8th-grass-stakeholder-meeting-and-the-2nd-in-latvia-was-completed>

## SUBMARINER and the GRASS project join the Seaweed for Europe Coalition



Figure 18 – Six priority action areas to tip the industry towards a pathway to sustainable growth

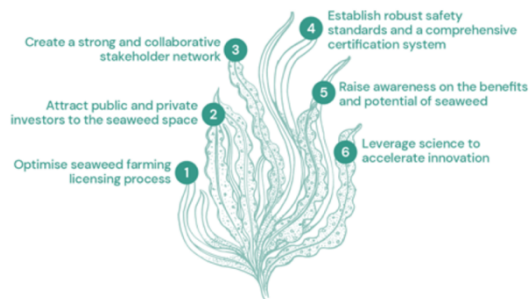


Photo: Seaweed for Europe

A new industry-driven coalition has emerged during the course of 2020 Pandemic against all odds, with the ambition to drive a systemic innovation in seaweed for Europe. SUBMARINER Network is participating in the Coalition to contribute to raising awareness of the benefits and potential of algae.

Read more: <https://submariner-network.eu/news/883-seaweed-for-europe-coalition-launched>

## SUBMARINER Draft Roadmap agreed during the 11th Member's Assembly

The SUBMARINER Network is currently in the final stage of updating its Roadmap 2030 (first edition published in 2013) as to define our new set of priority targets and actions, which we aim to implement over the course of the coming years. Members agreed to formulate a seaweed WG by the end of the GRASS project.

Read more: <https://submariner-network.eu/news/876-submariner-draft-roadmap-agreed-during-the-11th-member-s-assembly>

## NEW PROJECTS:

### Multi-million investment in Swedish seafood



Photo: Erika Sundell

The new initiative *Blue Food – Center for future seafood* will make Sweden a leading producer of sustainable seafood.

Read more: <https://www.gu.se/en/news/multi-million-investment-in-swedish-seafood>

## New project started at the University of Tartu: Land-based cultivation technology of green algae *Ulva intestinalis* in the fresh- and brackish waters (EMFF Estonia).

The aim of the project is to test land-based cultivation technology of green algae *Ulva intestinalis* in the fresh- and brackish waters, to determine under which environmental conditions *U. intestinalis* has the highest growth rate values, while maintaining the valuable quality of the raw material. *Duration: 01.09.2020–31.12.2022*

Read more: <https://www.etis.ee/Portal/Projects/Display/3247ecd0-e4c2-4df1-8d05-a1bf226c42b5?lang=ENG>

## FucoSan – a successful cooperation on the trail of the fucoidans - to be continued!



Photo: fucosan.eu

After three years of successful collaboration, the FucoSan project ended last month, but now a new chapter is beginning!

Read more: <https://submariner-network.eu/news/75-grass-news-and-events/814-fucosan-a-successful-cooperation-on-the-trail-of-the-fucoidans-to-be-continued>

## Three new SUBMARINER Interreg SEED projects have started

The autumn of 2020 looks like it will be a very busy season with the approval of three Seed Money projects.

Read more: <https://submariner-network.eu/news/general-news/792-three-seed-money-project-approved>

## PUBLICATIONS:

### Seafarm publication: A comparative environmental life cycle assessment of hatchery, cultivation, and preservation of the kelp *Saccharina latissima*

This article contributes a case study evaluation of environmental sustainability of preserved brown seaweed *Saccharina latissima* by means of environmental life cycle assessment of a pilot facility in Sweden.

Read more: <https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/advance-article/doi/10.1093/icesjms/fsaa112/5892999>

### New publication: Ten Trends for sustainable bioeconomy in the Nordic Arctic and Baltic Sea Region

This report identifies ten bioeconomy trends in the Baltic Sea Region and Nordic Arctic. The aim is to equip policy-makers with an in-depth understanding of where the bioeconomy is heading and help them to navigate its potentials and pitfalls.

See BIOECONOMY TREND #4 *The slow starter: Seaweed and algae*. Nordic Council of Ministers 2020.

Read more: <https://pub.norden.org/nord2020-037/>

### New publication: Fucoidans as Potential Therapeutics for Age-Related Macular Degeneration — Current Evidence from In Vitro Research by Philipp Dörschmann and Alexa Klettner

This has been published by the Fucosan project partners, in IJMS as part of the Special Issue Bioactive Compounds in the Pathogenesis, Prevention, and Therapy of Eye Diseases.

Read more: <https://www.mdpi.com/1422-0067/21/23/9272>

### UNGC - A deep dive into Zero Hunger: the seaweed revolution



Photo: Unsplash/Shane Stagner

SUBMARINER has endorsed the UNGC's Seaweed Manifesto<sub>2</sub> and invites all Environmental Ministers in the BSR to do the same!

Read more: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/11/1077212>



## Exciting ValgOrize news: first study results are in!

As a part of and to lay the foundations of WP4, Noordzeeboerderij has executed a market study that outlines the current European seaweed food market. Their results will help all the project partners in their further research, and move us closer toward achieving the common goal of the ValgOrize project; promoting algae as a tasty nutritional source of food for the consumer, leading producers to consider them for use in their food products.

Read more: <https://www.valgorize.eu/EN/News/Firststudyresults/tabid/11805/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

## OTHER SEAWEED NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

### Orkla NO investment in seaweed

Orkla is developing seaweed ingredients as a new sustainable growth industry. Orkla has purchased shares in Arctic Seaweed, a Norwegian seaweed farm with production facilities at Øygarden outside Bergen, Norway.

Read more: <https://news.cision.com/orkla-as/r/orkla-invests-in-seaweed,c3203741>

### Bocuse d'Or winner Ørjan Johannessen presents the Marine Research Burger



Photo: Erlend A. Lorentzen / Institute of Marine Research

The Institute of Marine Research (IMR) celebrates its 120th anniversary with their own signature dish (with recipe).

Read more: <https://www.hi.no/en/hi/news/2020/april/bocuse-dor-vinner-orjan-johannessen-presenterer-havforskningsburgeren>

## New smart Farm Operations Platform for seaweed from SmartOysters



This platform allows farmers to record stock movements, automatically schedule farm tasks and manage workflow through a simple intuitive interface.

Read more: <https://smartoysters.com/products>

## BIO4SAFE – Important steps towards offshore seaweed cultivation

North Sea Farmers have been working on using seaweed biostimulants to reduce water and fertilizer inputs in 2-Seas Region agri- and horticulture. Read the full report here:

<https://www.northseafarmers.org/news/201125-Bio4Safe%20update>

Read more: <https://www.interreg2seas.eu/nl/bio4safe>

## Video from FT on Norwegian seaweed

Seaweed: sustainable crop of the future?

Watch the video: <https://www.ft.com/video/bf89d746-e696-42df-82de-8157d0e0d034>

## Plans to create a \$60 million seaweed farm unveiled

Kelp Blue is planning to grow a large underwater forest of seaweed off the coast of Namibia, covering some 70,000 hectares. The Kelp Blue CEO is a previous executive of Shell.

Read more: <https://thefishsite.com/articles/plans-to-create-a-60-million-seaweed-farm-unveiled>

## Seaweed farming set to benefit from Bezos' billions



Photo: © Hiroshi Sato

Bezos fund has released a 100m\$ (Bezos Earth Fund) that is managed by WWF to support seaweed aquaculture and mangroves restoration. The CEO of WWF says that they are able release a fund of a 1b\$ in total to join this cause.

Read more: <https://thefishsite.com/articles/seaweed-farming-set-to-benefit-from-bezoss-billions>

## Seaweed hand sanitizer is fighting COVID-19 in an eco-friendly way



*Photo: Majid Hajibeigy*

Majid Hajibeigy, Guernsey Seaweed and Wayward Distillery mix seaweed gel with alcohol to create Kelping Hands, an FDA approved hand sanitizer.

Read more: <https://www.theweathernetwork.com/ca/news/article/seaweed-hand-sanitizer-from-british-columbia-is-fighting-covid-19-in-an-eco-friendly>