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leiðsögn um fjöruna

við Sævang

27. MARS, kl. 16–17.30

Hnyðja

Íbúum Strandabyggðar er boðið á opinn fund þar sem rætt verður um þararækt og hvernig eigi að skrá sig og taka þátt í verkefninu.



1. JÚLI - 25. ÁGÚST

Hólmavík

Lærðu hvernig á að uppskera og vinna þara með matvælaöryggi að leiðarljósi.



1. ÁGÚST, FÖS kl. 13–14

Sheep Farming Museum

Guided coastal walk about sustainable foraging, Icelandic plants, seaweed, local stories and the ecosystem.

All ages. In English & Icelandic



Blueprint for a Seaweed Living Lab:

Knowledge transfer and ocean literacy to support the protection and restoration of macroalgal habitats

Economic potentials of macroalgal utilisation present benefits but also stressors for the marine ecosystems where wild kelp forests are harvested. This blueprint outlines collaborative efforts between municipality, local seaweed farm, academia and fishers to create activities for knowledge-share and public participation in sustainable macroalgal cultivation. By mapping educational opportunities to available local resources, interests and capacities, we increase awareness of the socio-ecological importance of macroalgal habitats and the need for protection. Activities are designed to increase participation and environmental awareness of different stakeholder groups and the general public.

Who is this relevant to?

- Macroalgal habitats experiencing stressors, degradation or have restoration needs
- Municipalities with limited resources for marine protection or restoration
- Communities where fisheries face challenges of depleting fish stock
- Municipalities looking to adopt sustainable aquaculture practices

Policy Relevance

EU LEVEL

Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

NATIONAL POLICY LEVEL
(IS) Employment and innovation

MUNICIPALITY LEVEL
Industry development strategy

The solution

A seaweed Living Lab (LL) is established as a collaborative effort between the local government, businesses and academia to raise awareness on marine habitat protection and capacity building for a sustainable blue economy. A program is designed to share knowledge on macroalgae ecosystem, cultivation, sustainable utilisation and increase ocean literacy.

Awareness of macroalgal habitat protection is developed through workshops and nature experiences. The workshops are specifically created to increase the public's understanding of the important roles macroalgae play in various aspects of their livelihood, wellbeing and local economy. They cater to various skill levels and interests expressed by stakeholders and local residents.

Macroalgal cultivation is a low impact activity with a potential to enhance biodiversity. Streamlining efforts with sustainable seaweed aquaculture, the solution builds educational opportunities upon existing local capabilities to provide hands-on experiences to the general public. The access to open knowledge-share and training builds capacity within rural communities in need of job diversification and increased sustainability in marine production.

In doing so, the objective of the LL is to increase knowledge on the marine ecosystem and develop skillsets among citizens to participate in sustainable marine utilisation.

THE SEAWEED LIVING LAB OBJECTIVE: DESIGN AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM TO INCREASE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS ON THE MACROALGAL ECOSYSTEM AND THE NEED FOR PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILISATION

Key steps of implementation:

1. A preliminary study to map stakeholders, capacity, infrastructure and collaborative opportunities.
2. Community outreach events for stakeholder discussions, obtain feedback and identify needs and concerns.
3. Establishment of accessible training site for stakeholders.
4. A program designed to engage with audience of various skill levels and interests, e.g. guided nature walks, seaweed food tasting, crafting, invite community to harvests, cultivation technique demonstrations.
5. Identify core group with the skillsets required to carry out the program, emphasise collaborations with local actors and bringing knowledge and opportunities into the community.

Next steps

A Living Lab is a re-iterative process which responds to local contexts and environmental and societal challenges. A seaweed LL is conducive to community-building. It provides an active learning ground for ocean literacy to support protection and restoration efforts. Long-term engagement and impact can be sustained based on addressing stakeholder needs by:

1. Deepening collaboration with local actors, e.g. develop an ocean literacy program with a local school using seaweed as a gateway.
2. Continuing to train dedicated participants and creating engaging opportunities for citizen science.
3. Connecting LL with market opportunities, e.g. ecotourism, integrated multitrophic aquaculture, regenerative products, etc..

The key to successful implementation:

- Supportive policy, local government and community
- A robust and inclusive marine spatial plan
- Good communication with stakeholders, beginning early in the planning process
- Aligned interest and effort from all collaborators
- Research bodies or industry partners with relevant knowledge and willingness to participate in outreach
- Funding mechanism to maintain project

Monitoring your success

Monitoring is important so you can keep track of your successes and refocus your efforts on less responsive areas. Key things to monitor include:

- Number of engaged participants and increase in ocean literacy
- Biodiversity changes
- Area of seaweed habitat protected or restored
- Adoption of sustainable practices in seaweed utilisation

The benefits that the solution produces:

ECOLOGICAL: provides temporal habitats; increases public awareness and local monitoring.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC: builds up capacity and diverse skillsets, with lower cost and long-lasting effects.

SOCIAL & EDUCATIONAL: increases awareness to increase public will for protection, capacity-building and transferable knowledge for restoration, bringing together stakeholders, knowledge-exchange with academia.

CLIMATE: nutrient and carbon sequestration, low-carbon production

POLICY: supports innovation and blue economy policy, create value and jobs in rural areas, pilot study to develop a sustainable and inclusive seaweed industry.

The challenges you may encounter:

ACTIVITY:

Implementing a long-term seaweed LL demo

CHALLENGE 1:

Dedicated personnel with relevant skillset is needed to maintain structure.

CHALLENGE 2:

Building a community of participants takes time and dedication.

THE BRIGHT SIDE:

Growing seaweed in small scale takes a bit of practice, but it is relatively easy to learn the skillset using commonly available tools.

A vibrant seaweed community and a wealth of resources are easily accessible online. Workshops are offered through NGOs, scientific institutions and environmental conservation organisations.

Many educational and fun activities can be developed with the Living Lab. People are excited to contribute in making the community and environment a better place.

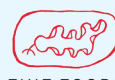
Key contacts

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