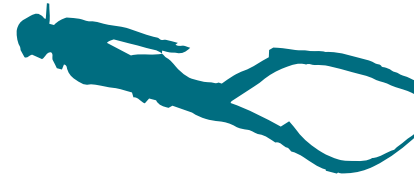
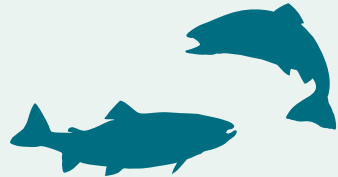
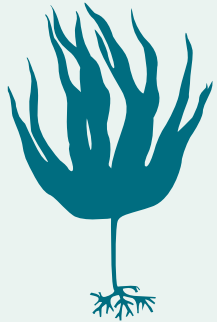




Sussex Kelp
Recovery
Project

Conservation & Outreach Highlights 2021-2024



Conservation

300km² of seabed protected from trawling thanks to the implementation of the Sussex Nearshore Trawling Byelaw, since March 2021.

This has given the marine ecosystem the space to recover and allowed the seabed to start to rewild itself.

Coverage

25,000 local people follow the journey to rewild Sussex seas on SKRP and **Sussex Underwater** social media channels.

The *Our Sea Forest* film, created by **Big Wave Productions** reached over 1.3 million views in its first month on BBC1 and was awarded a Maritime Foundation Media Award.

Collaboration

Group formed to tackle sedimentation coordinated by **Blue Marine Foundation**. More than 40 cross-sector participants of the Sussex Sediment Working Group to progress actions and address the issue of sedimentation in Sussex waters.

Citizen science

400 Kelp Recorders registered for **Sussex Wildlife Trust's** Citizen Science program to collect kelp observations and feed into a central database to help map where kelp is recovering.

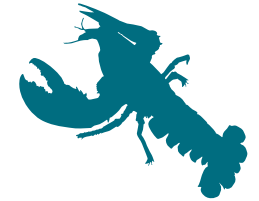
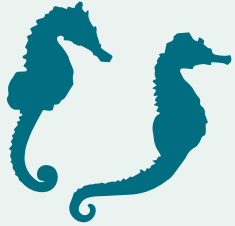
Community

6 ocean heroes swim the English Channel to support SKRP. The 'Blue Footed Boobies' raised £9,000 for the recovery of their local patch of ocean by conquering the Channel challenge.

Local marine advocate, Ruby Stothard, wins award from **Sussex Wildlife Trust** for her youth work engaging communities in kelp recovery with **Sussex Underwater**.



Research & Monitoring Highlights 2021-2024



Innovation

Spearheading species ID

Research by **Zoological Society of London**¹ using Autonomous Reef Monitoring Systems (ARMS), has shown the presence of more than 180 species, including habitat forming native oyster, ross & honeycomb worms.

eDNA analysis in 2021 by the **University of Sussex**² also, detected 78 marine species. This research and monitoring will create an essential evidence base of species present in Sussex waters.

Carbon storage

Secrets of the seabed

56 seabed cores from 20 sites across Sussex have been collected by researchers at **University of Brighton** and **Queen Mary University of London**³. This data will provide information on the characteristics of sites, such as depth and sediment type, that provide greatest carbon storage.

Surveillance

Footage from the deep

University of Sussex² have collected and analysed 360 hours of footage from Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUVs) and 126 towed underwater camera surveys have been carried out by **Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority** and **Zoological Society of London**¹. Footage has identified 86 species in Sussex seas. Results from BRUVs shows an increase in sublittoral (shallow) dwelling species, such as Atlantic mackerel, sand eels and mullets, since the implementation of the byelaw.

Fisheries

Potting surveys provide valuable data

Since 2021, changes in lobster and brown crab populations have been recorded through collaborative research between local fishers and **Blue Marine Foundation**. 78 crustacean surveys have been conducted over the last four years.

- ¹ Dr Chris Yesson (Zoological Society of London)
- ² Alice Clark, supervised by Dr Valentina Scarponi & Professor Mika Peck (University of Sussex)
- ³ Claude Annels (University of Brighton) & Dr Ray Ward (Queen Mary University of London)
- ⁴ Madison Bowden Parry (University of Exeter)

Fisher engagement

Collaboration with over 30 local fishers

Research has been undertaken on crustacean fisheries by **Blue Marine Foundation**, and interviews with fishers, carried out by the **University of Exeter**⁴, have assessed historical kelp distribution, perceived drivers of decline and historical climate and weather patterns.