

Project 2162

Sea Kelp Recovery and Management

Sussex

Selected by Carbon Neutral Britain to help support Marine Conservation and Carbon Sequestration off UK shores, this Sea Kelp Recovery and Management project focuses on enhancing biodiversity, promoting blue carbon habitats, and climate action along more than 40 kilometres of Sussex Coastline.



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



13 CLIMATE ACTION



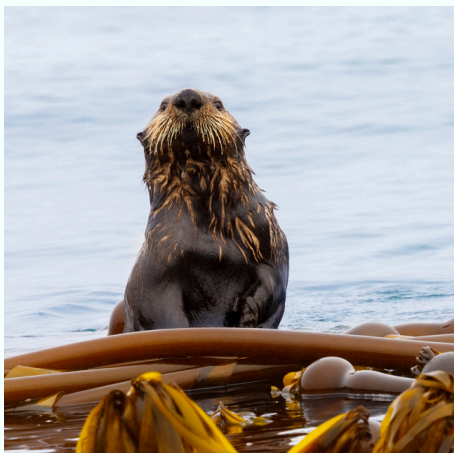
Carbon Neutral Britain project 2162 - Sea Kelp Recovery and Management - focuses on enhancing biodiversity, promoting blue carbon habitats, and climate action in Sussex.

Kelp forests once stretched 40 kilometres along the Sussex coastline, creating one of the most productive and biodiverse environments on the planet. Kelp forests provide shelter, feeding and nursery grounds for many marine species including cuttlefish, lobster, seabream and bass. Kelp also has the potential to store carbon, aiding in the fight against climate change, while improving water quality and reducing coastal erosion by absorbing the power of ocean waves.

Since 1987 however, over 96 per cent of Sussex's kelp had been destroyed due to years of destructive trawling and other human pressures.

To reverse this decline, the Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority proposed a byelaw prohibiting trawling of over 300 square kilometres of seabed in 2019 with the aim for recovery of the lost kelp forest and protection of essential fish habitats and fish populations. In March 2021 the Nearshore Trawling Byelaw 2019 was approved creating one of the largest inshore areas closed to trawling in England and the first kelp restoration project in the UK.

Sir David Attenborough lent his support in the early stages welcoming the byelaw as a **"landmark decision for the management of the UK's coastal waters"**.



Note - this UK Climate Action is not an Independently Verified Carbon Offsetting Project, and so the carbon captured from the marine activities of this project are not able to be measured, audited, and validated for business emissions claims. Via the Woodland Fund™ portfolio - for no additional cost, in addition to exact business emissions being offset via Verified Projects around the world (included within this Media Pack), this project has been supported in the absence of Verified Offsetting being available in the UK, to help ensure local Climate Action is supported and encouraged.

Following the introduction of the Byelaw, Carbon Neutral Britain's support of this project has helped establish the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project – an ambitious collective of conservation and government organisations, scientists and communities. Together, undertaking pioneering research to monitor the kelp's return and the benefits it provides for people, nature and climate.

Through this project, an extensive programme has been set up to monitor the impacts and benefits of excluding trawling for wildlife and inshore fisheries. The research includes baited remote underwater video surveys to monitor mobile benthic species, studies of crab and lobster populations and socio-economic surveys with fishermen.

Separate to the biodiversity benefits - this project also aims to contribute to Sea Kelps significant positive impact on climate change globally, with an estimated 5 Million tonnes of carbon being captured across our oceans each year.



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