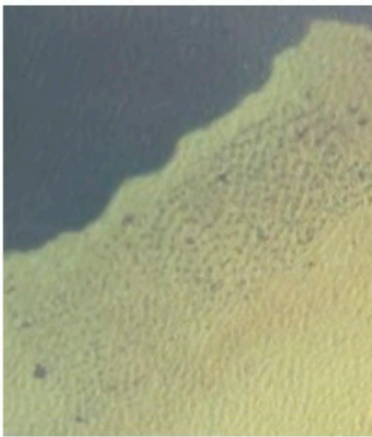


Seawilding Breakthrough For Seagrass Restoration

Loch Craignish, Argyll, 4th November 2025: Seawilding, Scotland's first community-based marine habitat restoration charity has achieved a major breakthrough in seagrass (*Zostera marina*) restoration.

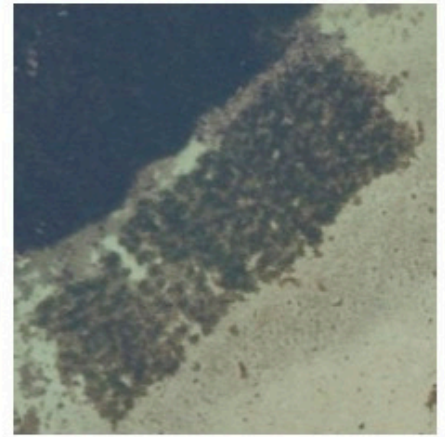
Using an innovative technique that translocates seagrass shoots instead of planting seeds, the project has achieved a remarkable increase in seabed coverage - from 10% to 70% in just 15 months - with an impressive 97% survival rate.



July 2024



September 2024



August 2025

Seagrass is the ocean's only flowering plant and provides a vital habitat for marine biodiversity as well as being an important carbon sink, yet it has been disappearing at an alarming rate since the 1900s. Efforts to restore seagrass are dogged by failure, but Seawilding's new methodology is showing unprecedented success.

For the last 10 years, efforts around the UK have focused on restoring seagrass habitat mainly by sowing seagrass seed. Yet success has been limited, with few examples of widespread seagrass habitat becoming established.

Since 2024, Seawilding has been trialling a new approach, transplanting tens of thousands of adult shoots from existing seagrass "donor" meadows to remarkable effect. Since July 2024, a newly planted area saw an increase in seabed coverage from 10% to more than 70% in just 15 months, while in 2025 a new trial achieved 97% survival of transplanted seagrass shoots and an average four-fold increase in seabed coverage in just 6 months.

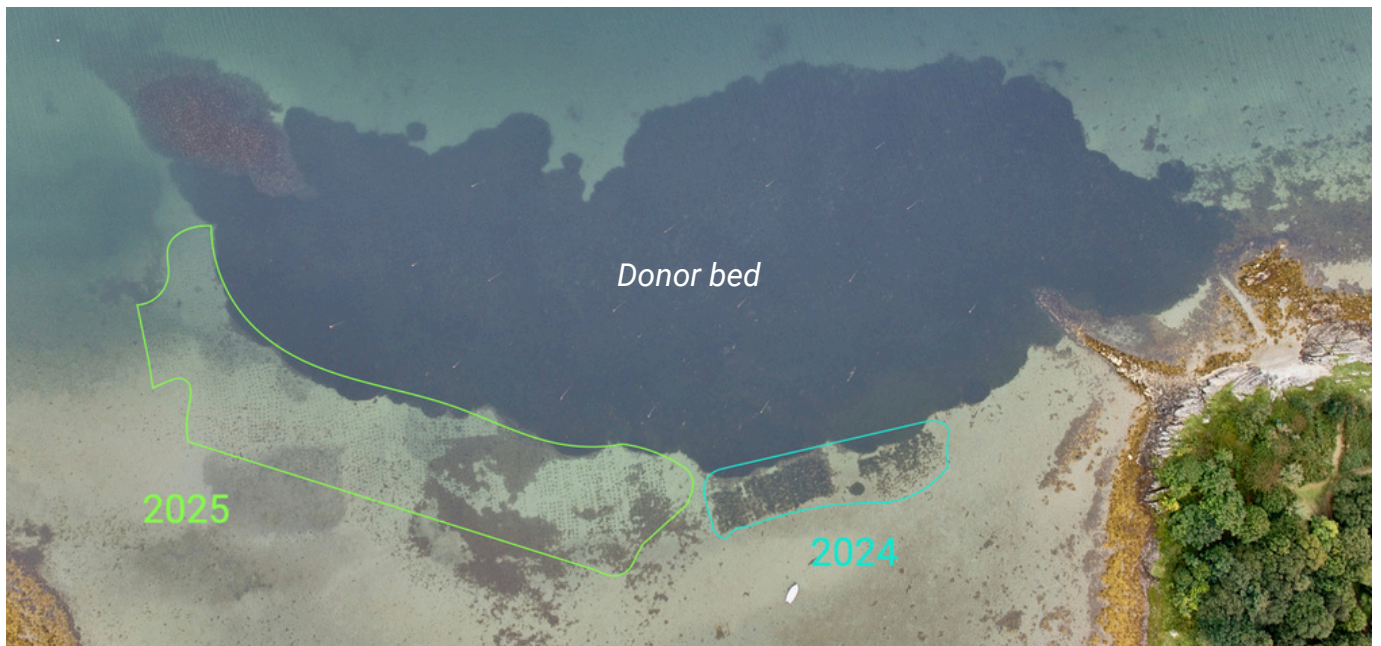
Altogether this has resulted in an area of 0.3 hectares of newly created seagrass habitat. Crucially, the impact of shoot extraction from the existing 'donor' meadow appears negligible. Even when harvested at 25% across an area, in just 5 months shoot density was back to near-natural levels



Just after planting May 2024



Same area October 2025



0.3 hectares of newly created seagrass habitat

For seagrass restoration in the UK, these trials represent a significant leap forward in technical success, and likely one of the most successful establishments of seagrass habitat in the UK to date. Full details of our results will be shared in our annual report later this year.

“It’s an exciting break-through” says Will Goudy, Seawilding’s Seagrass Lead. “We’ve trialled multiple methods over the last 5 years, and had our fair share of failure, but with this methodology we’re proving it’s possible to restore seagrass at scale.”

The next step for Seawilding is to keep building on this success by refining the harvesting and planting efficiency and trialling this successful method in new locations, all while continuing to support the recovery and restoration of our seas.

About Seawilding:

Award-winning Scottish charity Seawilding is the UK’s first community-based seagrass and oyster restoration project. They are located in Loch Craignish, Argyll and Loch Broom, Wester Ross. The charity employs 6 full time members of staff and is supported by hundreds of volunteers, from the local community and further afield. Their aim is to restore lost biodiversity, sequester carbon, create green jobs and mentor other community-based groups to do the same. Seawilding is an advocate for better protection of the seabed and the ocean generally. Only 5% of Scottish waters are protected from the most damaging forms of fishing – bottom trawling and dredging – and Seawilding campaigns for a ban of these destructive practises in inshore waters, and for eco-system scale restoration to bring back lost biodiversity, sustainable fishing jobs and hope for the ocean. www.seawilding.org

About Seagrass:

Seagrass meadows have been described as the most valuable coastal and marine ecosystems on the planet. They are one of the richest habitats for biodiversity, providing an important habitat for commercial fish species as well as many other marine animals, they lock away carbon in the sediment preventing it from being released into the atmosphere, and protect our coasts. Since the 1930s, when seagrass records first began, an estimated 42% of the UK’s seagrass meadows have been lost. Some estimates suggest the loss could be as high as 92% when accounting for areas lost before official records began.