

# MARINE UTOPIAS. The Savior of the Baltic Sea and the Secret Love Life of Seaweed

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## Blue fields of the sea

The marine environment has an important part to play in the change-over to a green economy, where the blue fields of the sea can form new and expanded cultivation spaces. The seas and oceans have always been a resource for food, containing complex ecosystems providing valuable biodiversity. Today we see a growing interest in the forgotten resource of seaweed. But there are also doubts about what seaweed actually contains. Eating seaweed is still unfamiliar to many in the Nordic countries, although sushi and seaweed caviar have found their place in specific consumer contexts.

## Seaweed challenges

This research takes point of departure in the relationship between sustainability, marine resources and value creation. An important learning outcome is to develop knowledge concerning the sustainable potential of seaweed, through visualizing versions of the role of seaweed as a future and historical resource. Seaweed organizes parts of society and various practices. Seaweed is also a protective community for other living creatures. But what if we run out of seaweed? New knowledge is needed regarding the regrowth of the blue forests of the Baltic Sea. What happens if we take the perspective of bladderwrack? How do we want to be treated?



Seaweed can be an important part of a sustainable lifestyle, as well as a key metaphor for a sustainable future in harmony with nature.

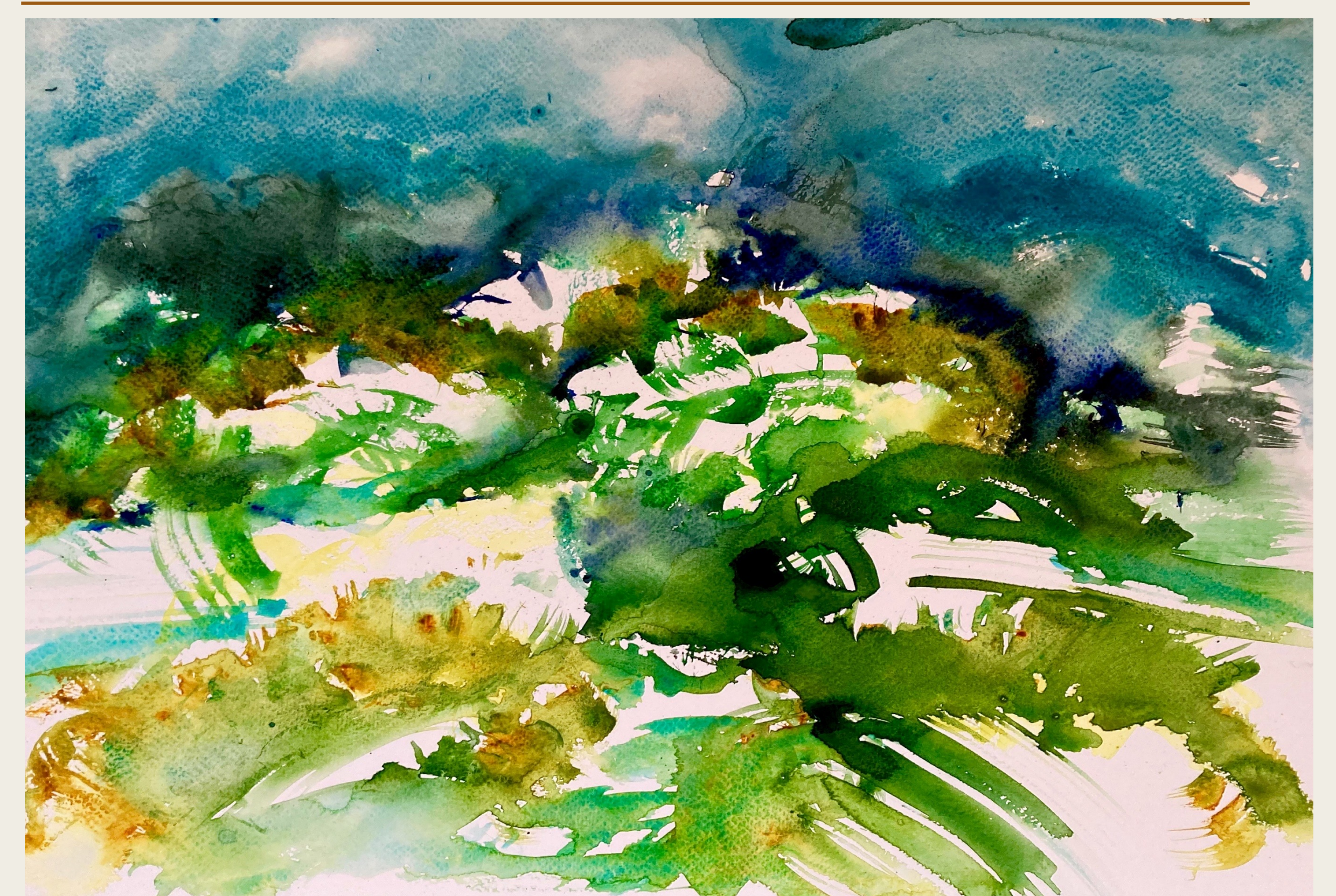
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There was a time when seaweed commanded a high value in the traditional coastal landscape economy. No money was needed to get seaweed.

There is no infrastructure for seaweed as a resource in Sweden. Often it is considered as a problem when the visibility of seaweed increases for a few months every summer. Seaweed activates several of our senses. You can smell and feel it, you can experience it in different ways. Many people say they love the sea, but few love the smell of rotten seaweed. Seaweed is an algae we can see with the naked eye. We know that algae is important for biodiversity. We know that seaweed constitutes a protective habitat for many small animals. Seaweed lives in the gaps. Where sea meets land, seaweed has silently been swaying for 1.5 billion years as one of the Earth's oldest living organisms.

## Seaweed lives in the gaps



## Contact

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## Seaweed Magics

There are animals and there are plants. And there is algae. Algae has its own kingdom. A magical phylum in the gap between plants and animals. Seaweed is a forest in the sea where water slaters graze, where crayfish crawl between clams and sea brush worms. The synchronized swarming of seaweed follows the tides and lunar gravity. This ancient ritual is still taking place and is a holdover from when seaweed only grew in the intertidal zone. Moonlight increases opportunities for female and male plants to reach each other. Who can resist a love story like that?