

Restoration of Charophyte meadows (kransalgsängar)

Examensarbete i biologi/miljövetenskap, 15-60 hp

Charophytes are charismatic macroalgae that are negatively affected by physical disturbance and eutrophication. This study aims to identify methods appropriate for replanting of Charophyte beds and apply them to a previously dredged area.

Background

Charophyte meadows (kransalgsängar) are the eelgrass beds (ålgräsängar) of the Gulf of Bothnia. They are charismatic macroalgae found in lagoons and sheltered bays that are negatively affected by physical disturbance (e.g. dredging) and eutrophication. Charophyte meadows are a redlisted biotope, yet they provide habitats for many species and are important for the recruitment of many fish species. Restoration of charophyte meadows has not been attempted in Sweden, despite the Gulf of Bothnia being an important habitat for charophytes.

Methods

Explore and test different methods for replanting of Charophyte beds in a lagoon where parts of the



Chara tomentosa, a charophyte and star duckweed in Siviksfjärden.

charophyte beds have been destroyed due to dredging. This study aims to identify a method appropriate for replanting of Charophyte beds and apply it to a previously dredged area. Practical work within the project will be carried out in association with Länsstyrelsen Gävleborg in Siviksfjärden in Hudiksvalls kommun.

The student should have an interest in restoration and be comfortable with snorkeling, working around small boats and in the water.

The work will also require designing of the experimental setup, monitoring, fieldwork, data analysis and report writing. Field work will ideally take place between Jun-Sept depending on the project plan. The student should undergo a short course on small boat safety.

<https://www.lansstyrelsen.se/download/18.4a4eb7416faedec12536b21/1582283441860/Restaurering%20muddringsrannor.pdf>

Kontakt

Carolyn Faithfull
Institutionen för akvatiska resurser (SLU Aqua)
carolyn.ffaithfull@slu.se
010 4784174