Restoration and Management of Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) on the West Coast of Sweden

Since the 1980s over 60% of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) habitats have been lost from the Swedish NW coast. In response to these losses, restoration of eelgrass ecosystems is being proposed by national agencies to assist recovery, but methods have not been available for high latitude environments. The losses of eelgrass have largely been attributed to the effects of eutrophication and overfishing, but coastal development could constitute an additional threat, since eelgrass often reside in shallow sheltered areas, where pressure from exploitation is high. In this thesis I present the results from studies aimed at 1) developing methods suitable for large-scale restoration of eelgrass in high latitude, Scandinavian waters, 2) increasing our understanding of environmental conditions that promote or impede eelgrass growth along the NW coast of Sweden and 3) assessing the local and large-scale effect of shading by docks and marinas on eelgrass and identifying problems with the current management, which allows for continued exploitation of eelgrass habitats.

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