



Backlash in Belgium

Talk is rife about the societal license to operate of large-scale seaweed farms, and the need to clearly communicate the environmental and economic benefits to create buy-in with the local population.

Case in point: after supermarket group Colruyt recently received a permit for the first large-scale mussel-oyster-seaweed farm off the Belgian coast, the city of Nieuwpoort immediately [went to court to try to revoke the permit](#) (NL), claiming the farm would be bad for fisheries, tourism and the environment.

This backlash was predicted to me last year by a researcher at a seaweed conference in Brussels. "They are making all these big plans, but they are not telling anyone about it. People will be shocked when they find out." She was right. Let it be a lesson.



Steven Hermans,
Editor

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BUSINESS

More palatable seaweed

Solar energy start-up Oceans of Energy and The Seaweed Company have joined forces [to create a test pilot solar & seaweed farm](#), situated some 12 kilometres off the Dutch coast.

French start-up [Algroupe has developed a low-impact fermentation process](#) to preserve seaweed longer, while at the same time making it more palatable to Western tastes.

INVESTMENT

Crowdfunding opportunity

In Guadeloupe, a new women-led seaweed aquaculture farm is [looking to crowdfund 60 000 euros](#) (FR). You can invest until December 31st.

SCIENCE

Microalgal fish feed, harvesting protein from shrimp waste and marine fungi

[A Norwegian report has published new data](#) on iodine levels and metals in seaweed, with increased resolution at the species level.

Chilean research has grown a marine fungus on macroalgal substrate [to create a new mycoprotein](#) (ES). A pilot to test large-scale cultivation is under way.

When shrimp are processed at seafood plants, the resulting wastewater contains a lot of protein. [Harvesting that protein using edible flocculants made from alginate and carrageenan](#), it can be used to supplement animal feed or food for humans.

[The first fish feed entirely made from microalgae](#) boosted growth of farmed tilapia by 58%, at lower cost than conventional fish meal. Patent pending.

CONSERVATION

Overfishing main culprit in decline of Norwegian kelp forests

While pollution and agriculture run-offs have a part in the decline of Norwegian kelp forests, it is overfishing that [has been named the chief culprit in a new report](#) (NO), by removing the fish that prey on the sea urchins that eat the kelp.

Interestingly, algal blooms are also a cause of overfishing, once again, because removing the top predators has a knock-on effect further down the food chain.

JOBS & CLASSIFIEDS

A platform for you

Do you have a job or internship you would like to advertise? A message to the seaweed community? There aren't many readers yet, but let me know and I'll incorporate it into the next newsletter.

P.S.

And finally...the world's favourite beer company, Corona, has produced [a beautiful short video](#) about [Roushanna Gray](#), a seaweed forager and chef from South Africa.



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