



## Kelp forests and carbon credits

[Kelp forests are collapsing](#). Blue carbon credits could reinvigorate them. Will they? That's the billion dollar question.

The OECD reckons a [worldwide carbon price of 120 euros by 2030](#) is necessary to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees. That won't happen. But although carbon markets have a bad reputation, for good reasons, the recent push of the [EU](#) and [Swiss](#) ETS over 40 euros has given arguments to the optimists ([as well as the pessimists](#)).

If it works out, where will all those future carbon credits come from? Restoration of mangroves and seagrass meadows funded by blue carbon credits [is set to take off](#).

However, to protect and restore kelp (and [other macroalgal](#)) forests, besides [trawl fishing bans](#), [urchin removal](#) and [green gravel seeding](#), more studies like [the one recently done in Norway](#) are needed to determine a carbon budget.

Start-up Kelp Blue wants to [farm kelp forests by only harvesting the top 10% of the kelp](#), leaving the ecosystem intact to store carbon and provide habitat. This looks to me the best way forward to protect kelp forests, one that is financially sustainable without relying on the charity of billionaires or the volatility of carbon markets.



Steven Hermans,  
Editor

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### BUSINESS

## Dark fermentation and light chlorella

2 new seaweed surveys gauge a) [the problems the fledgling US industry faces](#) and b) Norwegian [attitudes to eating seaweed](#).

Kuehnle Agrosystems has unveiled their newly patented ["dark fermentation" process](#) to produce cheaper astaxanthin and protein drop-ins.

Allmicroalgae [received approval from EFSA for its yellow and white chlorella variants](#). Losing the intense green associated with chlorella significantly widens the range of end uses.

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## INVESTMENT

### **\$10 million for spirulina cookies**

[Algiknit bags an extra \\$2.4M](#) to bring its seaweed textiles to market.

[India's Zaara Biotech](#) received a massive [\\$10M investment](#) for its spirulina cookies.

TransAlgae, developer of algae-based oral vaccinations, has [secured an extra \\$2.5 million](#) in funding from Gan Shmuel Foods.

Dutch chlorella producer Duplaco is making significant investments to [increase production from 15 to 300 tonnes](#) over the next 5 years.

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## SCIENCE

### **Asparagopsis naysayers strike back**

In the continuous back-and-forth between asparagopsis optimists and pessimists, [some interesting arguments against were raised last month](#). That coincided with a limited sample size study that, unlike some other recent studies, [did find negative health effects from asparagopsis](#) on animal's stomachs.

Unrelated: could you reduce the arsenic content in seaweed [by cooking it like rice?](#) (FR)

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