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achub cefnfor
seagrass
ocean rescue



PROJECT UPDATE – SPRING 2025

Hello from the Seagrass Ocean Rescue North Wales team. As we come into the summer months, we'd like to share our updates for the first half of 2025, all that's been achieved thanks to our incredible teams and volunteers as well as sharing our exciting plans for the rest of this year!

2025 Highlights So Far

We started off the season with great reassurance that our seedlings from last year's planting trial survived the winter in Holyhead! With 2025 planting having officially come to a close, we have planted over 0.5 ha in 2025 and have already seen signs of successful germination from our planting in February.

As usual, we have been trialling some new seagrass planting methodologies, the most recent involving a 'seagrass hug' experimental design. We have also continued to scale up the use of our seeding machine – in just one day it planted 115,151 seeds!

Naturally, we are looking forward to our seed picking events on 26th – 30th July where we are hoping to pick over a million seeds in Porthdinllaen with the help of our amazing volunteers!



Community Engagement

Following on from the drop-in sessions we hosted in Ynys Môn in November and December we have continued follow up conversations with attendees and local contacts who have shown interest in the development of a local community group in the area that we intend to establish over the coming months.

As we continue to deliver exciting school sessions on Pen Llŷn, we have now begun offering the same to schools across Ynys Môn, as many sit a stone's throw away from planting sites. These sessions aid in raising awareness locally, laying the groundwork for further community involvement in the project.



The Llŷn seagrass volunteer community group also remain actively engaged with both partner led and independent community fragment walks and planting taking place along its North Coast. We have also run a number of public seagrass walks and fragment planting sessions. This has been great to see as we gear up to our annual seed pick in Porthdinllaen!

Planting

Three planting trips took place this year between March and April at Penryhn and Penrhos Headland in Holyhead Bay. Throughout these trips...

- 160,000 seeds were planted in February
- 106,240 seeds and 778 transplants were planted in March
- 724,499 seeds were planted in April

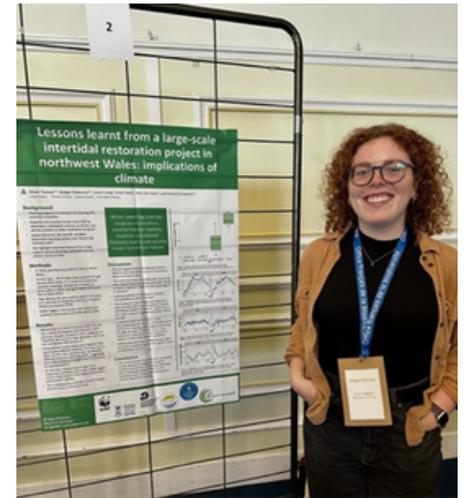
As in previous years, we used a mixture of dispenser injection seeding (DIS) and mechanically injected seeds using our manual seed planting machine. These methods compliment each other perfectly, planting seeds at a density of 320 seeds per m². The seeding device is a great tool we're utilising alongside our trusty volunteer efforts to scale up our planting, it has covered over 300m² this season.

We are of course continually looking for the most effective methods of seagrass restoration, therefore, as is customary for us – we experimented! The seagrass hug experiment is part of a wider European-scale project which involves planting a wall of transplants around a 1m² plot of DIS seeds. This aims to improve emergence rates within the transplant 'hug' as the developed plants protect emerging seedlings from physical factors like wave action. Control DIS plots were also planted as a comparison, so stay tuned for our monitoring results come Autumn!



European Seagrass Restoration Workshop

Project Seagrass attended the European Seagrass Restoration Workshop April 7th-11th and presented a poster detailing the scientific findings from SOR North Wales in 2024. This gave us a chance to engage with the scientific community, share the lessons learned as well as our goals in the coming year. The poster fit well with other major themes of the conference, including the implications of climate on seagrass planting.



Education Pack

We are pleased to inform you that the updated Tir a Môr Education Pack, led by Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau, is officially live! These new educational activities have a special focus on seagrass as well as the importance of water quality. They have been trialled throughout the year in several schools, with positive feedback from both staff and learners.

The plan is to distribute these across all 123 primary schools in Anglesey and Gwynedd counties with a special thanks to both councils for making this possible by funding equipment and hardcopies of the packs. Discussions surrounding further accessibility improvements are ongoing to ensure the full pack can be easily used online.

Several education activities have been delivered in the lead-up to the pack launch, including creative and field-based workshops in both Anglesey and Gwynedd.

Highlights include:

- A whole-school marine biodiversity day at Ysgol y Gorlan Tremadog (107 pupils)
- Seagrass planting with pupils from Ysgol Llangybi (11 pupils)
- Seagrass and water quality sessions at Ysgol Llangybi and Ysgol Morfa Nefyn with artist-led workshops (14 and 27 pupils respectively)

Natur am Byth! Art Project

Schools have been taking part in the Natur am Byth! art project. This focuses on the theme of water quality and seagrass. Pupils have been contributing to a final stained-glass window installation in Nefyn, participated in T-Shirt making sessions and have created clay pieces designed to explore the cultural and ecological importance of clean water.



Ocean Champs

NWWT has been busy with the Ocean Rescue Champions programme. Our 2024/25 cohort finished their time with some brilliant activities, kickstarting the new year with NWWT's big annual Plast Off Beach Clean event. Around 200 members of the public turned out to clean the coastline with the young volunteers handing out equipment, weighing the litter and giving information to people – including sharing their knowledge of seagrass of course!



We rounded off the programme at the end of March with Ocean Wildlife artist, Olivier Leger. The Champs contributed their thoughts and expressed inspiration towards his current seagrass seahorse piece.

The group then braved the inclement weather to plant 16,000 seeds, joined by some of our previous Ocean Rescue Champions. It is great to see these young people are still engaged in the project and were some of the most experienced seagrass planters in the field!



In early Spring, three young volunteers attended a local “eco” day where they had a stall about seagrass and the ORC programme to share their knowledge and passion with the local community. This was a huge success, and we are hugely proud to see the next generation stepping up to participate in such events without being under the direct supervision of a NWWT staff member.

The 2025/26 cohort of Champs and their Mentors have been recruited and are busy getting to know each other whilst exploring different areas of the Anglesey coastline. They have had their first snorkelling session and are really looking forward to getting stuck in with all things Seagrass Ocean Rescue this year.



Getting in Touch

If you have any questions, please get in touch - we would love to hear from you.

- Pen Llŷn a’r Sarnau SAC: Alison Palmer Hargrave
- (alisonpalmerhargrave@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)
- North Wales Wildlife Trust: Nia Jones (nia.jones@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk)
- Project Seagrass: Elena Love (elenalove@projectseagrass.org)

We also now have a project mailing list – if you’d like to join for updates, please contact the PLAS SAC Team at info@penllynarsarnau.co.uk



Thank you to Stena Line for supporting and enabling planting in Holyhead.

Gwnaed y prosiect yn bosibl diolch i
Project made possible thanks to



Prosiect a ddarperir gan
Project delivered by

