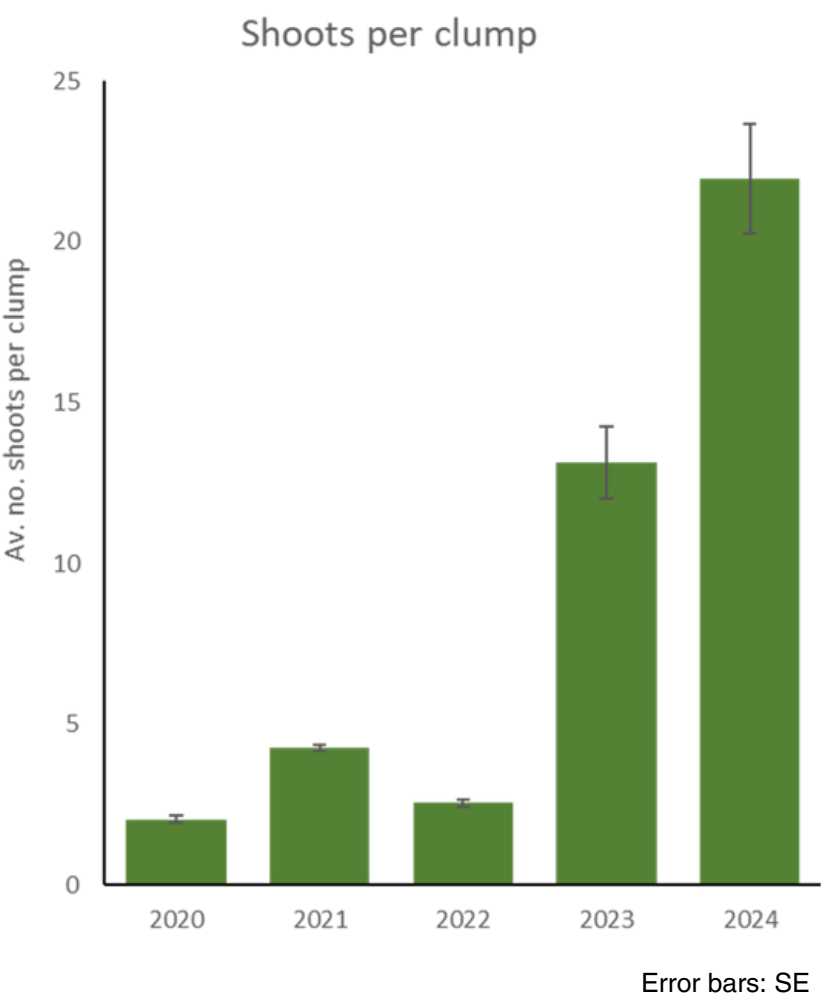


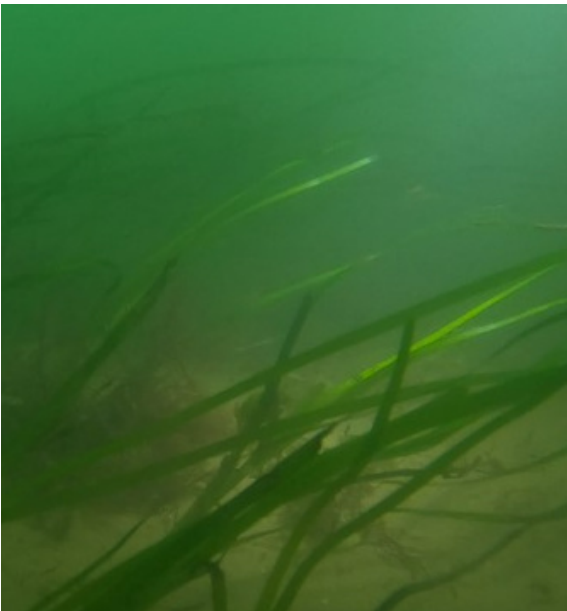
DALE SEAGRASS UPDATE

Following scientific trials in 2019, in 2020 many seagrass seeds were planted in Dale, supported by the community, school children and local organisations. Since planting, the seagrass area has been reseeded several times to infill gaps and support it as it develops. Despite some setbacks, the restoration area is now doing well, with a great increase in growth this year seen in recent monitoring. The natural patch of seagrass closer to the shore (Frenchman’s Bay area) is also doing well, likely due to seagrass seeds being transported to this area from the restoration area, and natural growth.

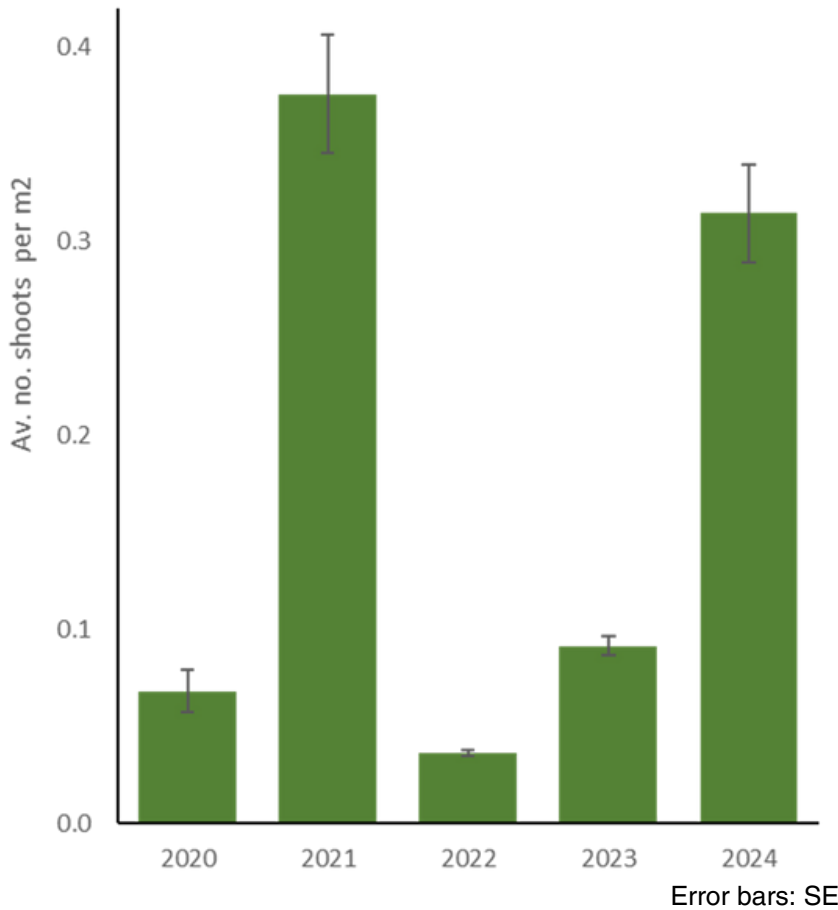


Scuba divers went out in 2024 and covered 3,000 m² of the restoration area, surveying in ten distinct lines. The results to the left show that the average number of shoots within each seagrass clump has greatly increased since 2023.

This means that the clumps of seagrass are larger, with the potential to patch together with more growth to form a meadow. The seagrass in the restoration is looking healthy and growing well!



Shoot density

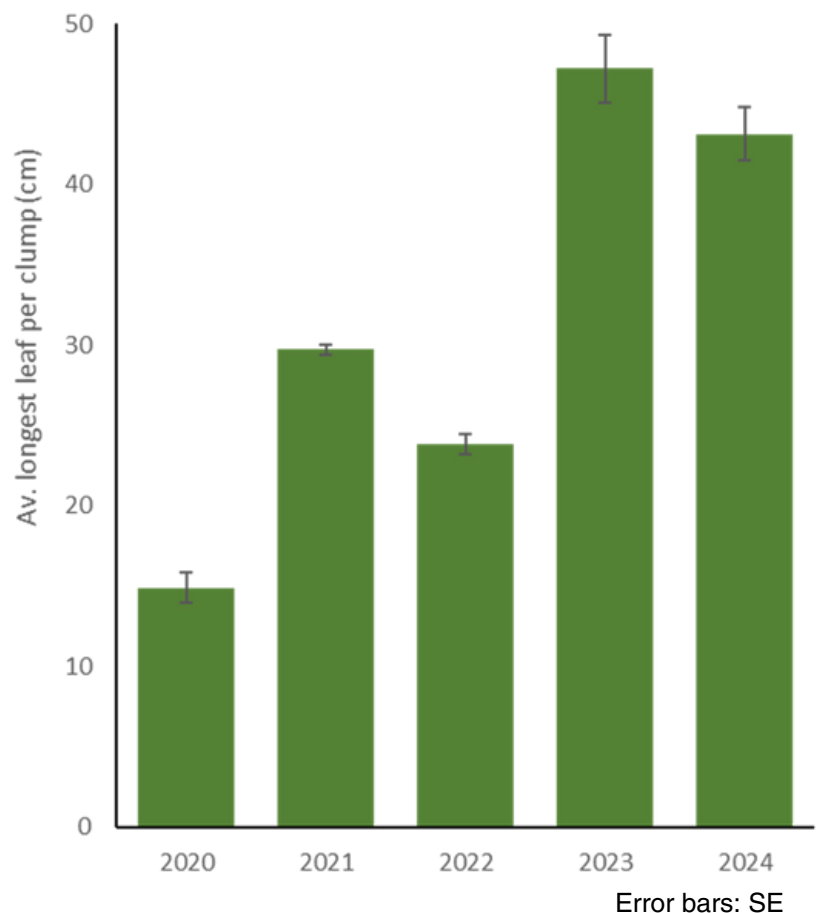


The average number of shoots across the whole restoration area has also increased since 2023, and recovered since a trawling and storm incident that impacted the seagrass from 2021 to 2022.



Leaf length of the seagrass has remained stable from 2023 to 2024, suggesting that the seagrass is reaching its maximum length for the environmental conditions.

Longest Leaf



A thornback ray visiting the seagrass!

We've also been co-delivering many seagrass-related activities with local businesses – including seagrass paddleboard and snorkel safaris, art activities, seine netting, community meetings and more. We have our first Sensitive Ecosystem Responsible Fisher (SERF) and are trialling seagrass friendly lobster pots. We also continue to support the visitor moorings located outside of the restoration area – with donations encouraged for use. We couldn't have achieved what has been without the ongoing support of Dale Seagrass Stakeholder Group, who continue to provide oversight to the project.



Seagrass core in
Llanelli

Cardiff and Llanelli - building on work in Dale:

We've begun small-scale seagrass planting trials in Cardiff and Llanelli, following site assessments and engagement. In Cardiff, we trialled planting *Zostera marina* (the larger UK seagrass species) seagrass seeds using the direct injection seeding (DIS) method – which involves using a caulking gun to inject a seed and mud mixture at the right depth into the sediment. We also trialled planting *Zostera noltii* (the smaller UK seagrass species) cores at both Cardiff and Llanelli. These cores of seagrass are taken from a healthy dense seagrass meadow near to Llanelli.



Z.marina in our
seagrass nursery

Our seagrass nursery in Laugharne:

Our seagrass nursery continues to provide exciting insights into the life history of both *Z.marina* and *Z.noltii*, the reproductive process, the most effective way to grow seagrass and more. We have a polytunnel at the site with inside smaller seagrass ponds. This year, we first planted seagrass out into our larger outside ponds. We also grew our first plants that were able to be transplanted at restoration sites across the UK, as well as many seagrass plants producing flowers and seeds.

What are we going to do?

This year, we have exciting plans for seagrass in Dale, and wider in South and West Wales. We will continue to support the seagrass in Dale Bay, with seagrass transplants trialled, further biodiversity and mapping surveys and engagement activities.

We'll also be continuing to explore seagrass restoration potential across new locations in South and West Wales. An initial desk-based review of historical seagrass information is being undertaken, combined with stakeholder discussions. We will follow this with site assessments and habitat modelling.

Potential sites range along the coast from Sully Island, Penarth (Cardiff), Oxwich (Gower), Swansea Bay (Mumbles), Ferryside to Llanstefan (Carmarthen), which all have historic evidence of seagrass cover.

We are currently gathering local knowledge on seagrass across the area, through engaging with people who collect seafood from the coastline (see poster below if you can help).

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

For volunteering, contact Jo at volunteers@projectseagrass.org

For anything else, contact Flo at flo@projectseagrass.org.



Thank you to the Nature Networks Fund (delivered by the Heritage Fund, on behalf of the Welsh Government and in partnership with Natural Resources Wales), and Rebel Restoration, for funding our work in South & West Wales.

**Cronfa
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South & West Wales Seafood and Seagrass Survey



PROJECT SEAGRASS

Shannon Moran | Ocean Image Bank

Help us identify sites
where fishing, seafood
gathering and seagrass
can coexist and thrive.



Please share your views!

<https://t.ly/gxUSx>

Thank you! Contact flo@projectseagrass.org for more information.

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