

Habitat Restoration - Saltmarsh



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Coastal vegetation has been in decline for decades. From dune systems to saltmarshes, these natural ecosystems have suffered heavily from the effects of human development. The remnant populations of these once vast habitats are now small, fragmented and disconnected and their ability to respond positively to sea level rise and climate change is in doubt.



Degraded saltmarsh habitats near St Andrews

Restoration of degraded coastal habitats can significantly contribute to conservation interests by improving habitat quality and ecosystem function. It also has the potential to be a long term, sustainable solution to coastal squeeze by increasing resilience to erosion and storm events.

Few viable restoration techniques currently exist, however, long term trial plantings of locally adapted saltmarsh species by researchers at the Scottish Oceans Institute have proven that, with a little help, new marsh can be encouraged to grow and replace lost marsh, even in seemingly degraded environments.

Services include:

- **Saltmarsh & Sand dune restoration**
- **Biological sampling – infaunal, epifaunal and macroalga**
- **Biological analysis - species ID, abundance and biomass**
- **Data management , analysis and assessment**
- **EIA & AA**
- **Habitat monitoring**
- **Inter-tidal ecology surveys**
- **Sediment transport monitoring**



Regeneration of saltmarsh habitats near St Andrews

