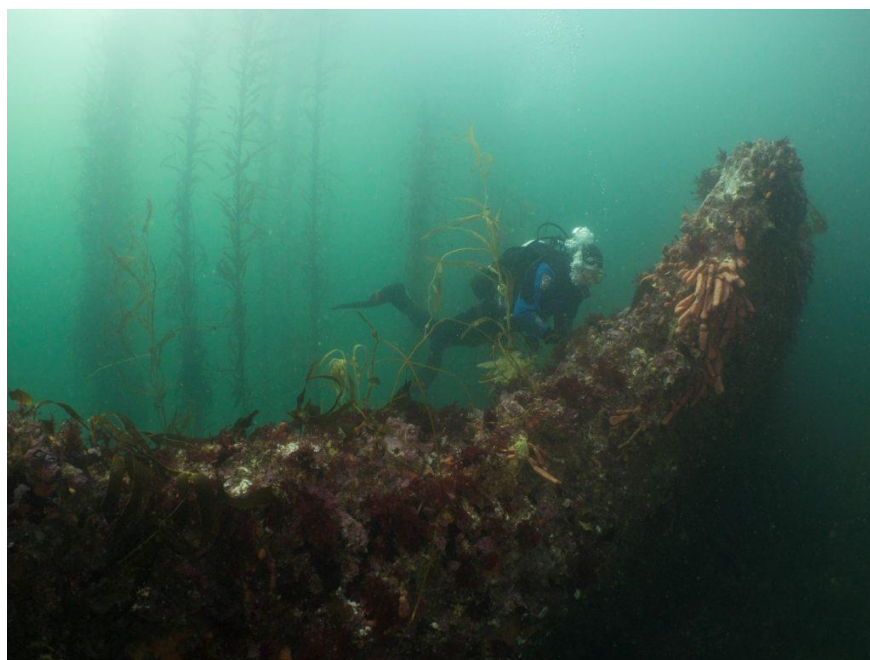


Ecosystem Service value of kelp in the Falklands

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We have recently started work on a new piece of research titled 'Ecosystem Service value of kelp in the Falklands' funded through the EU MOVE project. This research is focused on mapping and assessing the ecosystem service value associated with the giant kelp forests found in abundance around the Falkland Islands. The project builds on [work conducted in 2017](#) which valued the carbon stored and sequestered by these kelp systems. We are now building on this previous work by using updated remote-sensed (satellite imagery) estimates of the spatial extent of kelp around the archipelago, and incorporating additional ecosystem services such as the value to commercial fisheries and to research output.



The first step of this work is to update the extent of known standing giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) based on the outputs of the recent SAERI / Darwin Plus [coastal mapping project](#) of the Falklands and South Georgia. We will then use this data along with estimates of the extent and density of other kelp species such as *Lessonia Sp.* to

obtain an estimated total standing biomass of macroalgae. This biomass estimate can then be used to calculate the equivalent traded value of the carbon stored in the kelp (also known as '[blue carbon](#)'), or the non-use value of this system in terms of its resource for the alginate industry. This case

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study will then be used alongside a wider selection of case studies from locations across the EU overseas territories, to detail methods and best practices for how to value ecosystem services and 'natural capital'.

