



Torsås Kustmiljögrupp Bergkvara

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The Coastal Environment Group of Torsås (Torsås Kustmiljögrupp)

The 15 non-profit organisations who are now involved in the environmental work within Torsås Community have together established an umbrella organisation to co-ordinate all the different activities along the coast. The umbrella organisation is a non-profit organisation with the name of “Torsås Kustmiljögrupp”.

The object is mainly to co-ordinate all coastal environmental work in Torsås and to make priority evaluations of the different planned activities. The Group will also assist the member organisations with their contacts with authorities and institutions as well as with obtaining sponsors for environmental activities.

The Group will continue to engage in arranging regular coastal environmental conferences. Coastal Environmental Conference IV will be held September 27 – 28, 2005 in Bergkvara with about 60 participants.

The Group has its own website: www.kustmiljogruppen.org with detailed information about the projects mentioned in this paper and about other activities aimed at securing a better coastal environment along the beautiful coast of Torsås (see enclosed map, 1).

Here follows a summary, in chronological order, of environmental activities in the coastal area of Torsås Kommun (The Community of Torsås) initiated by non-profit organisations since 1998:

The Ökö-project, June 1998

A non-profit organisation was founded by 60 cottage owners to construct a 250 m long canal between the two bays in Ragnabo at the base of the peninsula Ökö. The object was to create a continuous free flow of water between the two bays. A bridge for local traffic was built over the canal (see encl. 2).

Financing in Swedish crowns:

Members contributions	65.000
Torsås Kommun	25.000
Regionförbundet (Regional Development Union)	10.000
Local business men	20.000
EU	<u>60.000</u>
Total	Scr 180.000



Coastal Environment Conference I, Oct 1999

Participants: experts from
 University of Stockholm
 National Board of Agriculture
 National Board of Environment
 National Board of Fisheries
 National Coastal Laboratory
 County administrative Board
 Regional Development Union
 University college of Kalmar
 Torsås Kommun
 Federation of Swedish Farmers
 Private business men
 Non-profit organisations in Ragnabo

The non-profit organisations made all the arrangements – while Torsås Kommun met all the expenses for the Conference. The topic of Conference I was: How to improve the coastal environment. What can be done? What actions are allowed? When is the best time to implement actions?



A coastal Research project, summer 2000

As a result of the conference the University of Stockholm carried out a research project in five shallow coastal bays in the Ragnabo region to establish the ecological status of the area. The evaluations were based on inventories of water chemistry and submerged vegetation and on calculation of nutrient run off from the catchments areas to the investigated coastal areas. The research concluded that the “Saltskär-project” and the “Eneskärsviken-project”, described below, ought to be carried out in order to give the bays a chance to survive.



Coastal Environment Conference II, Oct 2001

Same group of participants as in Conference I.
 Some more non-profit organisations have been formed and altogether 11 organisations are at this time involved in the environmental work to improve the conditions of the coastal areas of Torsås. A report from the Research-project was evaluated.
 The Conference recommended that a **regional plan** for the environmental preservation of the entire coastal area should be worked out for Torsås Kommun.



Regional Plan for Environmental Preservation of the Coast. (Kustvårdsplan)

A decision was taken to work out the Regional Environment Preservation Plan.
 It will be financed by Torsås Kommun and Länsstyrelsen (The County administrative Board), contributing 150.000 each and by EU with 300.000 Swedish crowns from the BaltCoast-project.

The following steering committee was established:

Rune Fransén, chairman, Torsås Kommun
 Göran Folbert, Länsstyrelsen (County administrative Board)
 Håkan Larsson, Mats Elgqvist, Birgitta Hedwall and Ulf Svensson representing the local non-profit organisations.

Project Manager: Stefan Dahlberg, Stockholm University

A reference group was formed with participants from the non-profit organisations and from Torsås Kommun.



The “Saltskär-project”, Oct. 2002

A canal was constructed to allow a free flow of water from “Kalmarsund” to the bay, “Kitteln”, with a bridge for local traffic. Torsås Kommun was formally managing the project .It was financed to 50% by Torsås Kommun, Regionförbundet, the members of the non-profit organisations and local business men. The remaining 50% was contributed by EU.



The ”Eneskärsviken-project”, spring 2003

A canal of about 100 meters was constructed at the base of ”Eneskäret” to allow a free flow of water between the bays ”Kitteln” and ”Eneskärsviken”. A pedestrian bridge was built over the canal (see encl. 3).

The three projects “Ökö”, “Saltskär” and “Eneskärsviken” has created a system for the free flow of water from Kalmarsund (the Straits of Kalmar) at Saltskär through a number of bays to Ökö. The effects have already been astonishing. The constant exchange of water in the former enclosed bays has contributed to a progressing restoration of the former sandy bottoms. An increase in the population of various species of fishes has also been noticed - although not yet scientifically confirmed. The quality of the local swimming areas has also significantly increased.

This project was made possible and carried out by the physical work of the members of the non-profit organisations and by financial assistance from EU.



Research paper for the Regional Plan for the Environmental Preservation, year 2002 - 2003

In this research paper by biologist Stefan Dahlgren the shallow costal areas of Torsås Kommun are described and the ecological status of the areas are evaluated. The evaluations are based on inventories of water chemistry and submersed vegetation, and on calculations of nutrient run off from the catchments areas to the investigated sea areas. Inventories have been performed in seven main coastal areas. Each of these main areas contains several sub areas. Totally seventeen bays and three reference-points in the open water outside the bays have been investigated.

The aim of the project was to create an information basis for future physical planning and to propose adequate measures for affected coastal areas. It was financed by Torsås Kommun and Länsstyrelsen (The County administrative Board) contributing 150.000 each and by EU with 300.000 Swedish crowns from the BaltCoast-project.

Coastal Environment Conference III, Sept 2003

The group of participants was enlarged with experts also from The University of Gothenburg, The Agrarian University, The Ministry for Environmental Affaires, The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, The Sucozoma-Project, Kalmar Kommun, Mönsterås Kommun, non-profit environmental groups from Kalmar and Mönsterås.

The project manager Stefan Dahlgren presented his research paper, for the Regional Plan for the Environmental Preservation, describing the ecological status of the coastal areas and proposing appropriate steps to be implemented to save and improve the environmental situation.

The Conference III had another two main topics:

- a) Slowing up the discharge of nutrient by a method of controlled drainage, the establishment of wetlands and by creating watering dams.
- b) Constricting the source of nutrient by reviewing the handling of manure, evaluating the discharge from private households and to investigate the state of the local centre of purification.

An expert group was formed for handling questions relating to the system of controlled drainage. Kerstin Ahlberg, Torsås Kommun, will be heading the group.



The Regional Environmental Preservation Plan was completed in May 2005

The steering committee has had a number of meetings reviewing and evaluating data in the Research paper for the Regional Plan for the Environmental Preservation, as well as data assembled by the reference group and obtained from other sources.

Kerstin Ahlberg, the ecological expert at Torsås Kommun, has composed the final Plan which was presented by the Coastal Environment Group to the Steering Committee of Torsås Kommun in May 2005. It was accepted by the Board in June 2005 and serves now as an official guide for the environmental work within the Community. It will be revised and updated every second year. The work by Kerstin Ahlberg for editing and presenting the final report was financed by the EU-program within the National Board of Agriculture for the project assistance for the development of rural districts.

Further practical actions are currently being carried out concerning the establishment of wetlands and introducing pilot-projects for controlled drainage systems. Torsås Kommun is also preparing for a junction of private sewage discharge solutions to the community sewage-system.