



## NATIONAL SEAWEED HUB WORK GROUP SUMMARY REPORT

# Production Systems

## Overview

The Seaweed Hub's Production Systems Work Group held several virtual meetings between 2020 and 2022 to identify more than thirty challenges, opportunities and priorities related to domestic seaweed production. The goal of these discussions was to develop strategies with achievable actions to support the expansion of the domestic seaweed industry. Priorities were refined to those that met multiple sector needs.

Priorities addressing lack of farm economic information, inefficiencies related to farm operations and management, seed-stock supply, lack of guidance and understanding of permitting and site selection, and public relations were identified.

### Participating Sectors

- Current farmers
- Prospective farmers
- Regulatory agencies (permitting/siting)
- Non-profits
- Researchers
- Tribal nations
- Educators

### Sea Grant Facilitators

- Meg Chadsey (Washington Sea Grant)
- Joshua Reitsma (Woods Hole Sea Grant)

## Priorities and Goals

The following priorities and goals were set by the working group.

### TOP THREE IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

Improve Seed Stock Supply

Improve Guidance for Site Selection/Farm Design

Improve Efficiency of Gear & Operations

## NATIONAL SEAWEED HUB

A Collaborative Partnership

[s.uconn.edu/seaweedhub](https://s.uconn.edu/seaweedhub)

*The Sea Grant National Seaweed Hub is a science-based, non-advocate resource for the domestic seaweed aquaculture industry and its associated stakeholders. This collaboration provides a mechanism to address emerging challenges and share information to support the growth of this new industry. Funded by the NOAA National Sea Grant Program, the National Seaweed Hub provides publicly accessible resources developed in response to stakeholder needs, allowing stakeholders to make more informed decisions.*

## CONTACT

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## Goal Objectives and Actions

Various parts of this goal are short, medium, and long-term as it is a critical area for production systems.

| GOAL 1: IMPROVE SEED STOCK SUPPLY |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>OBJECTIVES</b>                 | 1. Identify number of nursery facilities and share list with growers | 2. Increase capacity of facilities         | 3. Workforce development                     |
| <b>TASKS</b>                      | Create a National Seaweed Nursery Directory                          | Evaluate current training videos available | Identify existing opportunities and capacity |
| <b>COMPLETED</b>                  | s.uconn.edu/Nursery  |  |  |

This is a short-term goal in progress.

| GOAL 2: IMPROVE GUIDANCE FOR SITE SELECTION/FARM DESIGN |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>OBJECTIVES</b>                                       | 1. Standardize industry nomenclature & procedures (for growers and regulators)                                    | 2. Compile updated farm infrastructure guidance                           |
| <b>TASKS</b>  | Review current nomenclature used to describe gear and operations; suggest a standardized nomenclature for clarity | Revise seaweed handbooks with updated practices; share on the Seaweed Hub |

This is a medium-term goal in progress.

| GOAL 3: IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF GEAR & OPERATIONS |   |
|---|---|
| <b>OBJECTIVE</b>                                | 1. Develop technology and/or methodology to improve efficiency of farms   |
| <b>TASK</b>                                     | Setup a searchable electronic platform to share research results, allow for discussion to improve collaboration between farmers and researchers |

### Next Steps

- National Seaweed Nursery Directory updates, as needed
- Evaluate current training videos available
- Identify existing opportunities and capacity
- Advocate for funding for seaweed seed supply issues
- Review current nomenclature for gear operations and suggest standards
- Revise seaweed handbooks with updated practices
- Set up a searchable platform to share research results and improve collaboration between farmers and researchers

### Ongoing Tasks

The work group identified the next steps and ongoing tasks that are being implemented by others.

- Seed and seeding innovation
- Seed string technology
- Tropical species cultivation

For more information, visit:

[s.uconn.edu/seaweedhub](https://s.uconn.edu/seaweedhub)