



NATIONAL SEAWEED HUB WORK GROUP SUMMARY REPORT

# Post-Harvest Opportunities & Infrastructure

## Overview

The Seaweed Hub’s Processing Work Group held several virtual meetings between 2020 and 2022 to identify challenges, opportunities, and priorities related to domestic seaweed processing. 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 access to emerging markets, product development, processing infrastructure and technology, standards, and consumer education were identified.

### Participating Sectors

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

### Sea Grant Facilitators

- Melissa Good (Alaska Sea Grant)
- Antoinette Clemetson (New York Sea Grant)

## Priorities and Goals

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

### TOP THREE IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

Educated U.S. producers and consumers (Education)

Ensure innovations in processing are readily available to the industry (Technology)

Establish an economically sustainable industry for processing seaweed (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 identified by the Working Group.

<b>GOAL 1: EDUCATED U.S. PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS</b>			
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	1. Create an education program targeting consumers and culinary professionals about the variety and seaweed preparations (recipes).	2. Develop standards for processing by growers and safe handling by consumers who utilize fresh sea vegetables	3. Promote domestic consumption of domestic sea vegetables
<b>TASKS</b>	Create a chart of cultivated species and potential uses as an educational tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify parameters for testing in seaweed</li> <li>Develop Best Management Practices for seaweed harvest and sale</li> </ul>	
<b>COMPLETED</b>	Seaweed market infographic (developed by Sea Grant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report for Seaweed Parameter Testing Resources</li> <li>Seaweed Post Harvest Interactive Fact Sheet</li> </ul>	

Various parts of this goal are short, medium, and long-term.

<b>GOAL 2: ENSURE INNOVATIONS IN PROCESSING ARE READILY AVAILABLE TO THE INDUSTRY</b>			
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	1. Research cultivation technology for new species	2. Research product innovation by identifying existing and new processing technology	3. Facilitate product innovation by identifying existing and new processing technology
<b>TASKS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open source info on species, technology, and processing</li> <li>An assessment of new uses for existing species and possible uses for new species</li> </ul>		

Various parts of this goal are short, medium, and long-term.

<b>GOAL 3: ESTABLISH AN ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY FOR PROCESSING SEAWEED</b>			
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	1. Research and development into using sea vegetables as mixed ingredient products	2. A feasibility study investigating a regional processing model	
<b>TASKS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market study on successes in other countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider other agricultural crops using similar technology</li> <li>Identify challenges of regional processing</li> </ul>	



## Next Steps

- Market survey of processed seaweed buyers
- Compilation of best management practices (BMPs) for seaweed
- Gather examples of BMPs from other industries
- Test spatial/temporal nutrient levels
- Improve processing technology and expand these capabilities
- Compile information and resources to develop a processing business model
- Explore the feasibility of establishing carbon/nitrogen trading programs

## Ongoing Tasks

These ongoing tasks are being implemented by Sea Grant and others:

- Connecting farmers to processors/buyers
- Connecting farmers and processors to new and emerging processing equipment and processes

For more information, visit:

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