



NATIONAL SEAWEED HUB WORK GROUP SUMMARY REPORT

Regulations

Overview

The Seaweed Hub's Regulations Work Group held several virtual meetings between 2020 and 2022 to identify 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 multiple jurisdictions and permitting efficiencies for lease sites; food safety hazards; and markets and processing facilities were identified. The work group focused on food safety hazards while also addressing permitting through resource creation.

Priorities and Goals

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

TOP TWO IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

Permitting/Siting Efficiencies

Food Safety

NATIONAL SEAWEED HUB

A Collaborative Partnership

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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Participating Sectors

- Farmers (current and prospective), regulators, non-profit, researchers

Sea Grant Facilitators

- Catherine Janasie
National Sea Grant Law Center
- Stephanie Otts
National Sea Grant Law Center

Goal Objectives and Actions

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

GOAL 1: KNOWLEDGE GAPS IN FOOD SAFETY			
OBJECTIVES	1. Determine regulatory frameworks from other states/countries	2. Conduct a food safety literature review	3. Research frameworks for selling seaweed
TASKS	Compare current US food safety models (Seafood HACCP and PCHF)	Compile and index the primary, peer-reviewed literature related to seaweed food safety hazards to increase accessibility for policy-makers	Develop reciprocity for selling across state lines
COMPLETED	Comparison document of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) with Preventive Controls for Human Foods (PCHF)	Creation of an accessible seaweed food safety database: s.uconn.edu/articles	

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

GOAL 2: MAKE THE PERMITTING PROCESS MORE EFFICIENT	
OBJECTIVES	1. Identify agency questions/concerns when reviewing applications
TASKS	Permitting guide/checklist to assist with preparation of applications

Next Steps

- The FDA to develop seaweed food safety guidance
- Permitting guide/checklist to assist with preparation of applications
- Develop reciprocity for selling across state lines
- Understanding genetic populations and concerns of transmission to different locations
- Understand requirements for imported products
- Framework for establishing a carbon-offset market

Ongoing Tasks

- Seaweed-specific food safety training program (In Progress by Sea Grant)
- Research frameworks from other states and countries (In Progress by the National SG Law Center)
- Addition of legal frameworks to Seaweed Hub State of the States (In Progress by the National SG Law Center)

Completed Tasks

- The National Sea Grant Law Center has developed the following resources:
- A workshop report contains some foreign regulatory limits (see Chapter Two)
 - Compiled state seaweed provisions for wild harvest and aquaculture

For more information, visit:

s.uconn.edu/seaweedhub