National Seaweed Hub Regulations Summary Report

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 |

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>TASKS</th>
<th>COMPLETED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Determine regulatory frameworks from other states/countries</td>
<td>Compare current US food safety models (Seafood HACCP and PCHF)</td>
<td>Comparison document of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) with Preventive Controls for Human Foods (PCHF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Conduct a food safety literature review</td>
<td>Compile and index the primary, peer-reviewed literature related to seaweed food safety hazards to increase accessibility for policy-makers</td>
<td>Creation of an accessible seaweed food safety database: <a href="http://s.uconn.edu/articles">s.uconn.edu/articles</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Research frameworks for selling seaweed</td>
<td>Develop reciprocity for selling across state lines</td>
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### GOAL 2: MAKE THE PERMITTING PROCESS MORE EFFICIENT

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<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>TASKS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Identify agency questions/concerns when reviewing applications</td>
<td>Permitting guide/checklist to assist with preparation of applications</td>
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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](http://s.uconn.edu/seaweedhub)