

Press Release



1st International Seaweed Conference USA

Seagriculture

7 - 8 SEPTEMBER 2022
PORTLAND (ME), USA

Cascadia Seaweed is on a mission to improve human health, support coastal communities and heal the Earth.

In less than a month, the International Seagriculture Conference will take place for the first time in the United States. The organizers invite you to take part in the seaweed journey in Portland, Maine on September 7 & 8.

The success of the Seagriculture Conference lies in the active work of companies from different fields. Working with seaweed farmers helps highlight the importance of this aquaculture sector. Seaweed can be used to make sustainable fertilizers, cosmetics, furniture, clothes, and also be used for producing food, softening the carbon footprint on the planet.

One company is Cascadia Seaweed, Seagriculture's Bronze Sponsor, which is the only vertically integrated seaweed company combining science and cultivation know-how, First Nations partnerships and progressive brand development. Cascadia Seaweed is growing to be the largest North American provider of ocean cultivated seaweed for food, feed, and other valuable market verticals. This British Columbia based corporation was founded in 2019 by three maritime professionals who believe in building a profitable and scalable business that enhances the natural environment and provides economic opportunity for Indigenous and coastal communities.

The foods we eat have a significant impact on the health of the planet. In the summer of 2020, Cascadia Seaweed launched a new brand, Kove Ocean Foods, for the climate-conscious consumer. This is not just another food brand, this is a snack with purpose! Cascadia Seaweed believes that ocean farming is the future of food, and they are here to share how much seaweed has to offer with food products in a variety of categories.

While developing the first products for Kove, they simultaneously began scientific research to address the market for specific seaweeds as a feed additive, with goals of improving animal health, increasing feed conversion while diversifying feed supply therefore reducing pressure on arable land, and reducing enteric methane emissions produced by ruminants. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) established an agreement with Cascadia Seaweed to systematically identify valuable compounds found in B.C. seaweeds, primarily to support the agricultural sector, taking action to create a healthier and more resilient future, while reducing emissions and addressing other climate-related challenges, using science and evidence-based decision making.

With funding from the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BC SRIF), Cascadia Seaweed is on their way to implementing 400 hectares of cultivated kelp beds for

the purpose of evaluating their effect on juvenile salmon. Kelp farms are known to have ecosystem benefits, but their role in bolstering fisheries is relatively understudied. With declines in both salmon and kelp forests along B.C.'s coast, kelp farming has the potential to help regenerate both.

Seaweed improves the ocean environment in which it grows, and has a long list of climate-positive uses. Cascadia's goal is to responsibly scale-up operations providing economic reconciliation opportunities with coastal First Nations while meeting the growing demand for food, feed, and industrial products in such a way that makes a positive impact on people and the planet.

More information about Seagriculture USA and Cascadia Seaweed can be found on <https://seagriculture-usa.com/> and <https://www.cascadiaseaweed.com/>

12 August 2022