

**Press release
For direct publication**



2nd International Seaweed Conference USA

Seagriculture

6 - 7 SEPTEMBER 2023
PORTLAND (ME), USA

“After successful premiere in 2022, Seagriculture USA returns to Portland, Maine, for second edition in September 2023”

The organizer of the Seagriculture USA Conference, DLG Benelux, is pleased to announce that the second edition of Seagriculture USA will return to Portland, Maine, on 6 and 7 September 2023 and will again take place in The Westin Portland Harborview.

The launch of Seagriculture USA took place on 7 and 8 September 2022 and was an instant success with 279 delegates from 12 countries, 157 attending companies, 17 trade show participants and some 27 expert speakers who addressed a broad range of topics related to seaweeds.

Seagriculture USA 2022 was made possible with the support from the State of Maine and in particular the following state agencies: Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), Maine Technology Institute (MTI), Maine International Trade Center (MITC) and Maine North Atlantic Development Office (MENADO).

Having evaluated the results of the first edition the State of Maine favorably decided to support again the second edition of the conference to take place in Portland, Maine. Seagriculture USA 2023 is proudly supported by: Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), Maine Office of Tourism, Maine Technology Institute (MTI), Maine International Trade Center (MITC) and Maine North Atlantic Development Office (MENADO).

Dana Eidsness, Director of MENADO at Maine International Trade Center and one of the driving forces behind the support from the State of Maine, says: *“Seaweed farming and value creation has enormous economic potential in Maine and our businesses and research communities are leading the way towards making it a major driver in our economy. From best practices for farmers and harvesters, to innovations developing applications for seaweed as a material for food, textiles and bioplastics, to working together to build a global market for seaweed products; dialogue at Seagriculture USA has impact and moves the industry forward. Maine is an ideal location for this important event.”*

Kuno Jacobs, Managing Director of DLG Benelux states: *“We are thrilled that we can further develop Seagriculture USA in 2023 with the support from the State of Maine. Furthermore, we are very pleased that the first edition of the conference turned out to be such a successful event and contributed to the development of the seaweed aquaculture industry in Maine and North America. We are very thankful for the continuous support from the State of Maine in making Seagriculture USA 2023 possible.”*



Benelux

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Maine is an ideal place to cultivate kelps, with its clean, cold water, abundant coastline, and knowledgeable fishermen. Kelps are cultivated on sea farms, which are leased from the State of Maine through the Department of Marine Resources. Because kelp is a winter crop, it can be grown in the "off-season" in Maine, when most lobster fishing and recreational boating is at a minimum. Winter kelp farms have great potential in Maine to provide a means for diversification and a way to increase seafood production in the State.

Maine and Alaska are the leading seaweed producers in the USA, the Island Institute from the State of Maine suggests that the annual haul of farmed seaweed in Maine could top more than 3 million pounds by 2035.

The Seagriculture USA conference is an addition to the European edition of Seagriculture, which has been successfully organized since 2012 and has built up a solid reputation as the leading conference for seaweed farming in Europe. Besides the expansion of the brand to North America, the organizers have also launched an Asia-Pacific edition of the conference which will be held from 8 - 9 February 2023 in an online format.

More information is available on www.seagriculture-usa.com

January 2023



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