

GREEN URCHIN RANCHING GUIDE

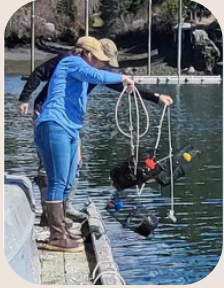


01 COLLECT URCHINS

- Recommend diving or using minnow traps baited with kelp
- Collect from a *barren* for ease of collection
- Handle delicately & transport in water
- Keep in running seawater if extended time between collection and cage placement



Urchins in Barren



Placing Minnow Trap

02 PUT URCHINS IN CAGES & PLACE THEM FOR FEEDING

- Minnow traps work well, or anything that can open easily for feeding
- Oyster mariculture cages also work well and may help with *biofouling*!
- Hang cages off docks, farm lines, or something similar



Urchins in Minnow Trap

03 FEED URCHINS

- Kelp is best. This can be harvested from the wild but also collected off farming gear (lines and buoys) or off the beach (*wrack*)
- Commercial feed works if kelp is unavailable
- Check weekly to ensure they have food - amount may vary of time and depending on how many urchins are in a cage
- **Don't let them run out of food!**



Commercial Pellets

Pellets from The Nature Conservancy pictured here



Kelp

04 CHECK URCHIN GONADS FOR HARVESTABILITY

- Start checking for growth after 6-8 weeks
- Look for changes in size, color, texture, and consistency



Starved Gonads



Marketable Gonads

DEFINITIONS:

- **Barren:** Areas on the seafloor with a hyper-abundance of urchins and very little seaweeds
- **Wrack:** Seaweeds washed up on beaches after storms or high tides
- **Biofouling:** Unwanted organisms growing on gear such as traps or lines

Purple Urchin ranching information here: www.urchinranching.org