



Kelp Agricultural Product Development Grant

Progress Report: Q4 2025

Task 1: Scaling Production and Aggregating Supply of Organic Farm-Grown Bull Kelp

- Supported Kodiak Ocean Growers (KOG) in planning for coordinated production and harvest of sugar kelp for Cascadia biostimulant production in Spring 2026
 - Provided guidance around harvest efficiency goals (20k lbs per day delivered to processor) and structure for KOG to approach making farm-level improvements
- Supported Sea Quester Farms in planning for production and harvest of bull kelp for Pacific Northwest Organics biostimulant production in Spring 2026
- Began planning organic certification needs for the 2025-2026 season.
 - KOG and Wildsource will not be pursuing organic certification due to lack of buyer need.
 - Sea Quester Farms will be obtaining organic certification and has initiated the process with Oregon Tilth

Task 2: Bull Kelp Harvest Technology Innovation

- Provided support for Sea Quester Farms for spring 2026 harvest technology improvement

Task 3: Processing Technology Optimization

- Shipped processed bull kelp from 2024-25 season from Glacier Valley Warehousing in Juneau to Pacific Northwest Organics in California
 - Decommissioned and shipped VS-8 shredder back to Vincent from Juneau
- Supported Glacier Valley Warehousing and Pacific Northwest Organics in discussions of processing needs for Spring 2026 harvest
- Supported KOG in discussions of processing needs for Spring 2026 harvest.
 - Provided input on on-board processing equipment options

Task 4: Biostimulant Product Efficacy Testing

- Searched for and evaluated new partner(s) for strawberry drought study
- Secured new partner (AgMetrics) for strawberry drought study; drafted study design
- Finalized strawberry drought study design
- Initiated strawberry study pre-work with AgMetrics
 - Strawberry crop installation including plants, plastic mulch, fertilizer, pesticides
 - Administrative time for protocol development



- Administrative time to set up files relevant to trial operations, including scheduling, statistical management software we use for trial work, data sheet preparation, etc.

Task 5: Techno-Economic Analysis & Retrospective

- Conducted internal planning meetings to align around data-gathering needs for TEA for the remainder of the grant period
- Developed a model for farmers to understand their costs and gross margin
- Hosted meetings with farmers to develop individual and group financial models
- Initiated discussions with consultant Chris Janke about supporting final TEA deliverable