



Sea Quester Farms

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SPLIT KELP MULTI HARVEST

Project Report Q2

January 1st - March 31st 2025

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SUMMARY

The split kelp multi-harvest project continues to be on track to compare harvest data across multiple crop years in two Alaskan regions; Southeast and Prince William Sound. Routine maintenance and growth checks were performed over the past 3 months and revealed small, manageable issues that were mitigated. Recent growth check reveals adequate growth on all research lines for both farm sites

FARM STATUS AND YIELD

In Juneau, growth is obvious across all lines, initially indicated by drone footage and confirmed by manual grow line check. Long spells of high winds, high seas and low temps were a cause for concern over much of this quarter, as the farm site and gear had not yet had a history of enduring those sustained conditions. Evidently, both Crop #1 and Crop #2 survived the harsh storms.

In Prince William Sound, growth is apparent although patchy. Patchiness attributed to less-than ideal seed quality from hatchery. To lower growth risk, farmers decided to seed each grow line with 2 seed lines and their efforts paid off. A march growth check revealed healthy plants ranging from 9"-24" in length.

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

This period was dominated by monitoring of the farm sites over the winter months. Periodic farm checks revealed needs for tensioning adjustments to keep lines spaced out and away from neighboring arrays. Some equipment used to attach flotation failed, these failures were non-critical and it has been determined that the success of the crop will not require re-implementation of this piece of equipment. Spring farm checks confirm that tensioning adjustments were successful in keeping lines from tangling. (*Sea Quester Farms, Juneau AK*)

The array on research site#2 was tensioned in November and then again in January. There have been no gear issues so far this season. The farm site has experienced strong winds and long durations of freezing temperatures however, WildBlue is in a relatively protected spot so even during strong winds and storms the farm is not receiving the brunt of it. There has been no freezing water on the farm site (*WildBlue Mariculture, Cordova AK*)

CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES SUMMARIZED

Challenges:

Unusual weather conditions, farm tensioning for line management, less-than ideal seed quality

Successes:

Growth observed across all treatment lines on both sites