

Seaweed Hub - Processing Work Group

Meeting #1 May 21, 2020

Hosts: Melissa Good - Alaska Sea Grant and Antoinette Clemetson - New York Sea Grant

Attendees:

Travis Bettinson - Washington,
Peter Piconi - Island Institute, Maine
Jaclyn Robidoux - Maine Sea Grant, Maine
Kate Alfano - Media/Marketing Portland, Maine
Dave Bailey - WHOI - Massachusetts
David Berg - New York
Aaron Milstein - Washington, researcher Trout Lodge Incorporated,
David Carey - Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Gabe Lundgren - Marine Fisheries Massachusetts
Anoushka Conception - Connecticut Sea Grant
Scarlett Salem - FDA

Agenda:

Welcome & Orientation — Melissa and Antoinette (5 min)

- Record for our internal purposes and we will be writing minutes
- Features of the Zoom - raising hands and we will unmute, you can communicate privately with us and others but chat to everyone, type your name in the chat box and your State
- Length of meeting 1:15 hrs
- Use computer if you can

Round-the-Room — All (15 min) Antoinette

- Who you are? Where are you from? What are your interests/do? Keep it short - 1 minute

Symposium Updates — Melissa (10 min)

Work Group Priorities — Antoinette (30 min)

- Review of Processing Work Group focus areas and potential early actions identified at the Symposium. Do they still make sense? Adjustments for Covid-19?

Operational Framework — Melissa (20 min)

- Sub-Working Groups; Discuss work group meeting format and schedule we will meet quarterly, you are welcome to meet outside of this but please provide us with notes; member expectations; leadership opportunities
- Breakout groups: what are your goals to get out of this meeting?

Post meeting -- Antoinette and Melissa (5 min)

- *Email to sign up for work out groups*
- *Next meeting date/time Doodle the recurring quarterly meeting dates/times*
- *Google Drive - shared drive for resource drops*
- *Contact others additional meetings*
- *Contact us if you have objections to this*

Welcome and Orientation - Melissa and Antionette

- Meetings will be recorded for our internal purposes so that we can take accurate written minutes.
- This is the first meeting of the Seaweed Hub Processing Working Group post-symposium scheduled was delayed due to COVID-19. We appreciate everyone's times and energy into this process and understand that things may have changed.
- Features of the Zoom - raising hands, unmuting, you can communicate privately with us and others and chats can be posted for everyone to see, type your name in the chat box and your State.
- Aim to have the length of meetings at 1:15 hrs.
- Use a computer if you can to access Zoom features.
- Conducted around the room introductions.

Symposium Updates - Melissa

- [Seaweed Hub website](#) will be the primary means of sharing progress and resources. Recently added:
 - Several [Symposium presentations](#), including Charles Yarish's Plenary and the Nat'l Seaweed Needs Assessment Summary. 'State of the States of the Domestic Seaweed Industry' coming soon.
 - [Work Group Priorities and Actions](#)
 - All symposium participants are encouraged to read and comment on these products (regardless of work group assignment).
 - Follow your heart! Feel free to participate in whatever work group interests you. Contact Sea Grant work group leads
 - Current priorities and actions are just starting points. We expect work group strategies to evolve with continued stakeholder input
- Symposium Participants contact info spreadsheet will not be published on SeaweedHub.org, but has been shared with the Processing Working Group, and is available on request (email anoushka.concepcion@uconn.edu).

Work Group Priorities - Antionette

- The goal for this meeting is to refresh ourselves since our meeting in Rhode Island. Reviewed breakout group discussions from the Seaweed Symposium meeting and set the foundation for virtual meetings. During that session we:
 - Established goals
 - Described what we want to accomplish
 - Identified objectives
 - Interim steps that have measurable outcomes
 - Identify tasks
 - 'low hanging fruits' that can be completed in short period (1-2 years)

- Processing Goals
 - Goal 1: Educated producers and consumers (education)
 - Goal 2: Ensure innovations in processing are readily available to the industry (technology)
 - Goal 3: Establish economically sustainable industry for processing sea vegetables (operations)

- Education Objectives
 - Objective 1: Educate industry to identify emerging markets to utilize new species and uses for sea vegetables
 - Objective 2: Create programs to share information about existing technology and harvesting techniques with sea vegetable growers
 - Objective 3: Promote domestic consumption of domestic sea vegetables
 - Objective 4: Develop a system(s) to develop standards for processing by growers and safe handling by consumers who utilize fresh sea vegetable
 - Objective 5: Develop processor business model to ensure economic viability of these facilities
 - Objective 6: Increase public awareness about nutritional, environmental, and other benefits (combine with Obj 3?)

- Education Task
 - Task 1: Education program targeting the general public and culinary professionals about the variety and sea vegetable preparations (recipes)

- Outcome: Fact sheets, webinar, podcasts, etc.

- Technology Objectives

- Objective 1: Research cultivation technology for new species
- Objective 2: Facilitate product innovation by identifying existing and new processing technology.
 - Helping to identify where this demand exists in the industry
- Objective 3: Improve processing technology and expand these capabilities
- Objective 4: Researching and promote sea vegetables as a substitute for plastics, wax lined boxes, etc. presently being used as packaging
- Objective 5: Establish processing specifications for different sea vegetable products
- Objective 6: Develop standardized parameter testing across the industry e.g., nutrient content, water quality, etc.
- Objective 7: Research new species that may be conducive to changing climate and develop cultivars
 - Germplasm collection

- Technology Tasks
 - Task 1: Research cultivation technology for new species
 - Task 2: Research product innovation by identify existing and new processing technology

- Outcome: TBA

- Operations Objectives

- Objective 1: Identify emerging markets (for processors) to utilize domestic sea vegetables e.g, nutraceuticals (combine Education Obj 1?)
- Objective 2: Invest in research product development and innovation that will support expansion and growth of the domestic sea vegetable industry
- Objective 3: Facilitate dialogue between sea vegetable producers and managers to establish policies for Carbon/Nitrogen credit programs
- Objective 4: Provide informational resources and expertise to assist sea vegetable producers to establish cooperatives (marketing?)
- Objective 5: Provide guidance and advice to address transportation challenges that presently serve as barriers and impedes post-harvest production

- Objective 6: Develop solutions and strategies for storing sea vegetables to extend the shelf life
 - Drying and other methods
- Objective 7: Develop decision trees for standards that will be appropriate for various sea vegetables
- Objective 8: Compile information and resources to develop a processing business model
- Objective 9: Develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for handling practices to be used for different sea vegetable species, which may vary with the intended use for these products

- Operations Tasks
 - Task 1: Conduct research and development into using sea vegetables as mixed ingredients products e.g., seaweed pasta, salt and pepper ‘flavoring’, etc.
 - Task 2: Invest in feasibility study to recommend a framework to establish a Regional Processing Model that can be adapted by different states

- Outcomes: TBA

- Cross Cutting Goals
 - Acknowledge several goals were cross cutting and preliminary priority will change
 - Time constraints will not allow review of cross cutting goals at this first virtual meeting

- Q/A
 - No questions.

Operational Framework — Melissa (20 min)

- Discussed the working group meeting quarterly with subcommittees meeting in breakout rooms. After a given time, subcommittees will all come together and report out what they discussed. Sub-committees are also welcome to meet outside of this but asked to please provide us with notes; member expectations; leadership opportunities

- Took 3 minutes for all participants to go into a breakout room. Breakout groups were tasked with the question: what are your goals to get out of this meeting?
- Subgroups: It will depend on how many people want to sign up for each sub-group. People may be able to be in more than one sub-group.

Post meeting -- Antoinette and Melissa (5 min)

- We will send an email to sign up for work out groups
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