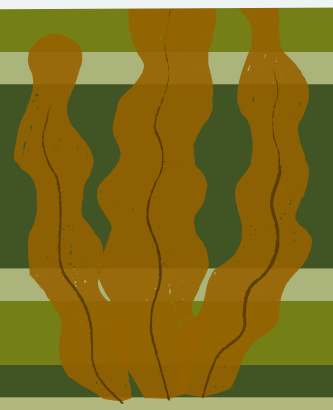


# Roadmap to Organic Certification for Seaweeds of Alaska



## Four Steps to Organic Certification



### 1 Choose your certifying agent

As of summer 2023, there is no certifying body in Alaska, but several agents in the lower-48 Alaska will certify Alaskan products.



Corvallis, OR  
tilth.org



Lincoln, NE  
ocia.org



Olympia, WA  
agr.wa.gov/organic

### 2 Craft an Organic Systems Plan

The Organic Systems Plan (OSP) details your farm's operations. The OSP includes things like chemicals used during spore inoculation, outplanting details, and harvest and storage records. See organic product requirements on the next page.

### 3 Schedule an On-sight Inspection

Once your application has been reviewed by the certifying agent, they will schedule an on-site inspection. The farmer is responsible for arranging travel to and from farm sites and processing facilities.

### 4 Provide annual updates

Annual updates describe any changes you have made to your operation or additions to your product line. The certifier will schedule annual on-site inspections.

## Costs

\$1300\* application fee + site inspection fee.

The cost of application and site inspection vary by the scope of your farm. Use the fee calculator [tilth.org/certification/fees/](https://tilth.org/certification/fees/)



\*The USDA Organic Certification Cost Share Program can provide reimbursement up to \$750 for application fees.

## Benefits

#### 1. Increase the value of your product.

Organic produce sells for up to 50% more than conventional produce in retail. (Carlson et al., 2016)

#### 2. Meet a growing demand.

Sales of organic food in the US have nearly doubled in the last 10 years (26.9 billion in 2010 vs 52.0 billion in 2021), with the greatest growth occurring in the sale of fruits and vegetables.

#### 3. Gain access to federal funding

Many federal and independent programs exist to offset the costs of transitioning to organic. See the USDA Organic Transitions (ORG) and Organic Research and Extension (OREI) programs.

Want to learn more? Visit us:

The Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation at [afdf.org](https://afdf.org)

# Special Considerations for Growing Organic Kelp

## Farm location

Farms sites must be at least three miles from

- Boat building facilities
- Industrial waste discharge
- City or town sewage discharge
- Major harbors (>10 moorings)

## Source of seed

No Organic-certified nursery stock exists in Alaska, so spores can be sourced from the wild and raised nurseries like the like Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute.

## Harvest and transport

Storage containers should be seperated from bilge water and vehicle beds by floorboards, tarp, or other materials.

Full containers should not be left in contact with gas cans or other hazardous materials.

## Packaging

Weighing should take place on stainless steel or other non-corroding, washable materials.



## Want to learn more?

- "Why Organic Seaweed is Important". 2022. Mountain Rose Herbs
- "Organic Guidelines for Wild Sea Vegetables". 2006. OCIA International, Inc.
- "Changes in Retail Organic Price Premiums from 2004 to 2010". 2016. USDA Economic Research Service

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