



New Analysis Finds Seaweed Industry Presents Economic Opportunity for Washington State

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON (February 24, 2026) – A new economic analysis commissioned by Maritime Blue and Ocean Strategies finds that Washington State is well-positioned to develop a diverse seaweed industry — creating new jobs, generating tax revenue, and increasing economic output through strategic investment in processing, infrastructure, and coordinated industry development.

The [*Washington Seaweed Aquaculture Economic Potential Analysis Report*](#) examines multiple development scenarios over a ten-year period and identifies clear pathways for economic growth for Washington seaweed processing and Washington-based seaweed growers, with the potential to support hundreds of jobs, tens of millions of dollars in economic activity, and meaningful state and local tax revenue.

“This report shows that seaweed is not a speculative idea—it’s a real economic opportunity for Washington growers,” said Riley Starks, a Washington seaweed farmer. “With thoughtful investment, seaweed can complement existing seafood and agriculture industries while creating family-wage jobs and new revenue along our working waterfronts.”

Processing Infrastructure Emerges as a Key Economic Driver

The analysis modeled four future development scenarios for Washington’s seaweed industry. Among these, the processing-supported scenario generated the greatest economic impact—delivering the highest levels of job creation, economic output, and tax revenue.

The [*report*](#) highlights that Washington’s existing strengths—ports, cold storage, transportation networks, and a skilled maritime workforce—provide a strong foundation for supporting seaweed farming and value-added processing, while reinforcing the state’s broader maritime economy and supporting regional supply chains.

“From an economic perspective, processing is the critical component,” said Gretchen Greene, co-author of the report. “Processing capacity has been a long-standing bottleneck for Washington’s seaweed sector, and this analysis uses scenario-based modeling to demonstrate that targeted investment in processing capacity could significantly expand jobs, revenue, and tax generation.”

Grounded Analysis to Inform Near-Term Decisions

While the [report](#) identifies clear economic potential, it also outlines the conditions needed to realize it, including streamlined permitting, expanded processing capacity, and coordinated public–private investment. Rather than forecasting outcomes, the analysis evaluates how different development choices affect jobs, revenue, and tax generation.

“This study gives Washington a realistic, data-driven foundation for deciding where targeted support can have the greatest economic impact,” said Joshua Berger, President and CEO of Maritime Blue. “It shows how seaweed can grow as a working waterfront industry—supporting jobs and revenue while also delivering environmental benefits when developed responsibly alongside shellfish, fishing, and other maritime sectors.”

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Read the fact sheet [here](#).

The full report is available [here](#).

Media contacts:

Willow Battista, Maritime Blue | willow@maritimeblue.org

About Maritime Blue

Maritime Blue is a strategic alliance propelling the Pacific Northwest toward global leadership in ocean-based innovation. We foster collaboration among industry, government, academia, communities, and investors to create sustainable maritime and ocean industries. We empower our region to thrive in the Blue Economy by accelerating innovation and entrepreneurship, centering equity, addressing climate change, restoring marine ecosystems, and building a diverse workforce.

About Ocean Strategies

Ocean Strategies is a public affairs firm specializing in domestic wild-capture and aquaculture industries.

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