

The Port of San Diego has identified shellfish and seaweed aquaculture development as a potential source for promoting regional economic diversity and growth, while enhancing environmental and ecosystem benefits. When properly planned and managed, shellfish and seaweed aquaculture can co-exist with other maritime functions and provide many benefits such as improving water quality, habitat enhancement, carbon sequestration, and ecosystem restoration. San Diego can support viable aquaculture businesses that support the District's mission, advance science, and grow a new industry sector with strong potential for job creation and related economic impacts for the region. To support growth of the shellfish and seaweed aquaculture industry in southern California, the District is proposing the development of the Shellfish and Seaweed Aquaculture Program (SSAP).

## Why Shellfish and Seaweed?



In California, the shellfish and seaweed growing industries consist of 22 operators in both coastal waters and private land-based facilities. In 2021, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) estimated the value of the state's shellfish production exceeded \$7.8 million (this number does not include the economic benefit from jobs or other multipliers, just the value of shellfish). The value from seaweed production from the state's nascent industry is not yet known.

With our temperate climate, San Diego has optimal growing conditions for shellfish and seaweeds. Aquaculture can co-exist with other maritime functions and provides many benefits such as improving air and water quality, habitat enhancement, ecosystem restoration, and more.

San Diego Bay can support viable shellfish and seaweed aquaculture businesses that support the Port's mission, advance science, and grow/build a new industry sector with strong potential for job creation and related economic impact to the region.

## Shellfish and Seaweed Aquaculture Program (SSAP)

The goal of the SSAP is to establish a set of policies, procedures, and best practices that the Port would apply when considering future aquaculture proposals both in the water and on land. Through this program, the Port can identify viable in-water and landside locations for shellfish and seaweed aquaculture in and around San Diego Bay and programmatically analyze them under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and other permitting or regulatory processes for future aquaculture use. This analysis may help streamline permitting and entitlement processes for future shellfish and seaweed aquaculture proposals. The SSAP would also identify species and gear types that would likely be utilized and outline a process towards implementation for future aquaculture operations.

## SSAP Stakeholder Engagement and Public Outreach

Public outreach and stakeholder engagement are important pillars to the development of the Shellfish & Seaweed Aquaculture Program. As this process moves along, the Port will be conducting stakeholder engagement to learn more from you and others who work in, manage, and play in and around San Diego Bay. Information we learn from you will help us understand where there may be conflicts but also opportunities, such as enhanced infrastructure, expanded labor/skill sets, and potential for business opportunities that are often associated with shellfish and seaweed aquaculture. Gathering input from a variety of stakeholders will inform the Shellfish and Seaweed Aquaculture Program.

### What's next?

A Discussion Draft of the proposed Shellfish and Seaweed Aquaculture Program for public input is available for review until October 25, 2024. Based on public and agency input received, the Port will review and update the program prior to initiating environmental review.

**For more information, visit:**

<https://www.portofsandiego.org/aquaculture>

**You can also use this QR code to view the webpage:**



**To submit comments, please email:**

[SSAP@portofsandiego.org](mailto:SSAP@portofsandiego.org)

