



Kelp Fest 2026 Program

(Subject to Change)

Day 1: Tuesday, June 9th

12:30-1:00pm	<p>Registration & Tradeshow Open</p> <p>Loyola Conference Hall, Sobey's School of Business</p>
1:00 – 1:45pm	<p>Mi'kmaw Opening Ceremony and Cultural Showcase</p> <p>Michelle Peters, Etlí Npísimkek Counselling, Water Walker & Protector, Pictou Landing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Singer Mish Conley, Rhode Island • Jesse Benjamin, Eskasoni, Women's Fancy Dance • Pikun Herney, Pictou Landing, Women's Traditional Dance • Michelle Peters, Pictou Landing, Women's Jingle Dance • Muin Paul, Eskasoni, Men's Traditional Dance • Brady GooGoo, Millbrook, Men's Grass Dance</p> <p>Loyola Conference Hall, Sobey's School of Business</p>
2:00-3:30pm	<p>Cultivating Success in Atlantic Canada's Kelp Sector</p> <p>Kendall Barbery, Director of Partnerships and Industry Engagement, Greenwave: <i>Highlights from State of the Kelp Industry: A decade in review and the road ahead</i></p> <p>Shannon Arnold, Associate Director of Marine Programs, Ecology Action Centre Liz MacCormick & Edward Cross, Verschuren Centre Mark Raymond, Saint Mary's University, Department of Economics, Sobey School of Business</p> <p>Early insights from our upcoming joint report on the conditions for success for a thriving cultivated kelp sector in Nova Scotia—numbers and business cases from farm to shelf stabilization, to biomaterials.</p> <p>Loyola Conference Hall, Sobey's School of Business</p>
3:45-4:45pm	<p>From Lab to Line: Atlantic Canadian Research Updates</p> <p>Dr. Carly Buchwald's Lab, Dalhousie University – Results of multi-year trials on kelp reproduction, hatchery optimization, ocean nutrients, and applied research Dr. Greg Puncher, National Research Council Canada and Merinov – Atlantic Canada's sugar kelp sub populations and genetic adaptations – what does it mean for the sector? Rafael Sabioni, Senior Aquaculture Technician, Memorial University Marine Institute – Newfoundland kelp nursery and applied farm research</p> <p>Sobey Room SB260</p>
4:45-5:15pm	<p>View the Chopin-mobile! Kelp Kurious' recently acquired small- scale, mobile kelp dryer Built by the late Terry Chopin, Father of IMTA & Steve Backman, seafarmer and UNB researcher A short walk across to the SMU arena parking to stretch our legs before the reception.</p>



5:30 - 8:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Kelptastic Reception and Tradeshow</p> <p>Kelp canapes by Chef Pamela Alexander Leonforde, Owner, Cafe Caye Mange Kelp & shellfish raw bar by Wild Heart Sea Farm Cocktails and mocktails, featuring custom “Kelpmato” by Canada’s Smartest Kitchen and sponsorship from Compass Distillers & Propeller Brewing Company</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Loyola Conference Hall, Sobey’s School of Business</p>
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Morning Day 2: Wednesday, June 10th

8:30 – 9:00 am	<p>Registration</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Loyola Conference Hall, Sobey’s School of Business</p>
9:00 - 9:15am	<p>Welcome to Day 2 of Kelp Fest</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Loyola Conference Hall, Sobey’s School of Business</p>
9:15 -10:30am	<p>Shellfish and Kelp: Better Together?</p> <p>Mike Doall, Stony Brook University Insights on the benefits to crop growth and health of mixed shellfish/kelp farms and research on applications for improving water quality, reduction in harmful algal blooms</p> <p>Jason Mullen, Aquaculture Business Development Advisor, Ulnooweg Business Development IMTA insights from Atlantic region and multispecies farming challenges, benefits</p> <p>Peter Darnell, Indian Point Marine Farms Ltd, veteran farmer insights</p> <p>Moderator Laurie Starr, Wild Heart Sea Farm, new farmer insights</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Loyola Conference Hall, Sobey’s School of Business</p>
10:30-10:45 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Tradeshow and Snack & Coffee break</p>
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	<p>Panel: Governance Models and Values for a Sustainable, Collaborative Sector</p> <p>Tom Webb, Founder, Master of Management: Co-operatives and Credit Unions Program at Saint Mary’s University</p> <p>Kendall Barberly, Director of Partnerships and Industry Engagement, Greenwave</p> <p>Tyler Sack, Director of Research, Deveau Institute for Indigenous Governance and Social Justice, St. Francis Xavier University</p> <p>Moderator Merydie Ross, Kelp Kurious Program Manager, Ecology Action Centre</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Loyola Conference Hall, Sobey’s School of Business</p>
12:00-1:00pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch</p>



Afternoon Day 2: Wednesday, June 10th

<p>1:00 –2:00 pm</p>	<p>Paths to Commercialization and Market Panel Insights and experience from product developers, small businesses, and buyers navigating commercialization and markets</p> <p>Rai-Lee Gardiner, Dir. of Engagement & Wellness, Aramark, Dalhousie University Food Services Courtney Howell, Co-founder of 7 Fathoms Seaweed Skincare Rosmarie Lohnes, CEO Helping Nature Heal Inc. Mark Smith, ED, Pacific Seaweed Industry Association Moderator: Ashley Sprague, Manager of Seafood, Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc.</p> <p>Loyola Conference Hall, Sobey’s School of Business</p>	
<p>2:00 – 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Navigating a Sea of Paperwork: Farm, Food, Fertilizer, Feed Regulations</p> <p>Mike Kofahl, Staff Lawyer, East Coast Environmental Law Shannon Arnold, Ecology Action Centre</p> <p>Takeaways from review of three major regulatory regimes impacting the sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial marine plant seafarming licencing differences in Atlantic Canada • Health Canada and CFIA regs for kelp as food • Fertilizer and animal feed regs for kelp <p>Loyola Conference Hall</p>	<p>Keep Calm and Kelp On: Sharing Nursery Innovations, Challenges, Successes</p> <p>Anyone running or thinking of setting up a kelp nursery</p> <p>Roundtable discussion, show and tell - learn from each other, hear about the one piece of equipment others wish they’d invested in sooner, share your own inventions and problem solving, and ask questions. This sharing session is designed to be interactive, practical, and useful.</p> <p>Sobey Room SB260</p>
<p>3:00 – 3:15 pm</p>	<p align="center">Tradeshow and Snack Break</p>	
<p>3:15 – 4:15 pm</p>	<p>Deep Waters, Long Horizons: Patient Capital Panel Why patient investing is essential for the cultivated kelp sector</p> <p>Ranah Chavoshi, Co-founding CEO, PhyCo Technologies, Inc. Rhiannon Davies, Founding and Managing Partner, Sandpiper Ventures Dr. Tasha Richard, Assistant Professor, Entrepreneurship, Dalhousie University Moderator: Paul Richards, Senior Corporate Advisor, Infrastructure, Invest Nova Scotia</p> <p>Loyola Conference Hall, Sobey’s School of Business</p>	
<p>4:30 pm</p>	<p>Thanks & Closing Remarks</p> <p>Loyola Conference Hall, Sobey’s School of Business</p>	