Farmer Veterans and Small Scale Fisheries

John Adams
Sound Fresh Clams and Oysters
Washington Chapter, Farmer Veteran Coalition
This is the story so far:

Continue to improve together
WA Farmer Veteran Coalition

Supporting the veterans and family members engaged in agricultural pursuits
Why farming works for me

• Constant challenge
• Growing food
• Mental health
Tides

Respiration of the estuary
Our Seagreen Project

- Pickleweed/sea beans (*Salicornia*)
- *Jaumea carnosa*
Seafood Supply Chain

Where is your margin?
Habitat Trends

Ocean Acidification (pH/chemistry change)
Sea Level Rise (shifts intertidal stratification)
Ocean Temperature (disrupts metabolism, ecosystem timing)
Climate Events. Rainfall, wind, sun, cold, drought
  Frequency, severity, duration
Ocean Acidification

Trophic system creates ripples of tertiary effects
Business Models

Scale
Value based
Agritourism (10-50%)
Restoration
Aquaculture
Composite models are best
Agri-tourism

Facilitates self discovery of food
Helps connect food with place and environment
Fully Engages senses
Seaweed is Food

Experience level of target market in product knowledge and food prep expertise

Need for translation to market
Farming and Resilience

Purpose: 40-70% of small businesses do not survive
Resilience

- Identify single points of failure
- Assess your risks, hazards and vulnerabilities
- Identify critical resources
- Contingency business planning
- Prepare. Reduce risks or vulnerabilities, build surplus, rehearse plan
- Develop collaborative network.
Questions?

John Adams
Sound Fresh Clams and Oysters
johna@skookumpoint.com
Case study #2 – Patriot Shellfish Farms/Blue Greens co.  Daniel Barth, Founder

My story
My history
My vision
My hopes
Seaweed webinar/Case study #2

To our veteran community:
Welcome Home – Thank you for your service and sacrifice.

Seaweed farming may or may not be right for you. I’d like to help.
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Where are we? Summary/highlights;

- Aquaculture around the world.
- Species
- Uses and markets (current and future)
- Organic verses Inorganic
- Ecological and personal restoration
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• Training: classroom, on-line, webinars, podcasts, internships, mentors, on the job, trial and error etc.

• It’s all not worth it if you don’t have a farm site. Agencies need to come forward and really assist and foster seaweed and shellfish aquaculture as mandated by law, regulation and policy. Will they?
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• Permitting new sites:
• Regulatory requirements.
• Costly.
• No guarantees you can do it.
• NIMBY’s and appeals and time.
• Don’t quit your day job.
Is there help for veterans, socially disadvantaged groups, Farmers of Color, women farmers, disabled farmers? Perhaps. Consider the Farmer Veteran Coalition, VCC, 2501 Program of the Farm Bill, USDA and perhaps your elected officials to support you. You’re not alone.
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My hopes:

“Real” agency support to “foster” seaweed farming. Select sites, pre-approve, secure regulatory permits (as done elsewhere) support small farmers, farmers of color and veterans.

Lobby for funding (Federal, State, local and private investment)

Reduce fees, eliminate burdensome redundant regulations.

Support working waterfronts and rural communities and farming support businesses and more.
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Thank you
Daniel Barth
Patriot Shellfish Farms LLC
Blue Greens Co.
Homegrown by Heroes
Sea-Rations
dbarth@localaccess.com
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Questions?

Audience live?
Webinar land Live?
Email follow up to Sea Grant or to me.

I hope this was okay, thanks again for listening to my story.
BONUS SLIDE

22 + 1
58,320
1587
7,800
72,000
126
16 March 1968 -504
Folks with military service. You may know some: