

# Urban Kelp Project

Innovative tools to understand  
ecosystem health,  
connectivity, and trends in  
urban areas of Puget Sound

# Action Requested

- Requesting approval for a competitive exemption to contract with the Seattle Aquarium to undertake the urban kelp research project

# Context for Urban Kelp Research

- Smith Cove Blue Carbon Project
- Sustainable shorelines initiative
- Partnership with Seattle Aquarium exhibit
- Duwamish Basin Steward



**Kelp research will inform Port efforts to improve the nearshore environment**

# Project Synopsis

- Investigate what causes kelp to thrive in an urban environment;
- Establish urban kelp forest monitoring sites;
- Use scuba, remotely-operated devices, and machine learning to survey urban kelp forests;
- Develop an ecological characterization of urban kelp forests;
- Engage and increase awareness with the public;
- Share results with partner agencies



*Source: Eiko Jones Photography, Puget Sound Kelp Recovery and Conservation Plan (2020)*

# Next Steps

- Finalize contract with the Seattle Aquarium
- Implement research (Phase 1) May – September 2022
- Share Phase 1 results late 2022/early 2023
- July 2022: budget request for 2023/2024 work (Phase 2)