

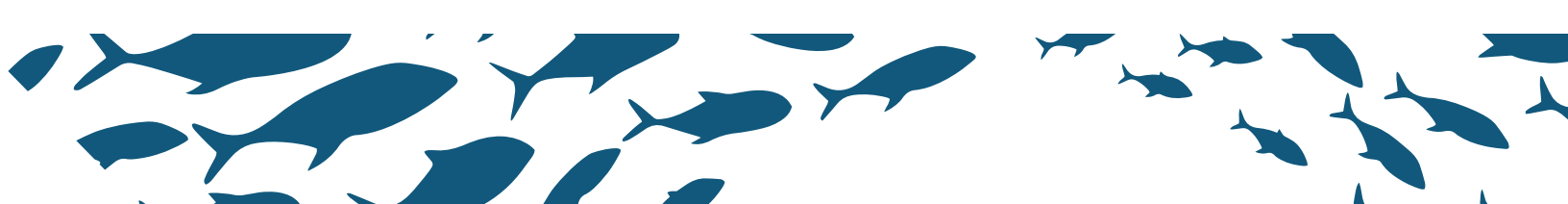
Principles for participating in the Kelp Forest Challenge

The Kelp Forest Challenge is meant to inspire the protection and restoration of kelp forests all around the world. However, protecting and restoring kelp forests is a complex activity that requires the consideration of cultural norms, ethical considerations, ecology, economics, and politics amongst others. The target that we are putting forward fails to capture these complexities.

Therefore, we are requesting that participants in the kelp forest challenge adhere to the below principles as they work to promote, protect, or restore kelp forests. These principles are non-binding but are intended to ensure that the activities undertaken in the auspices of this challenge are fair, equitable, and positive for nature and society.

These principles in no particular order are:

- 1) Participants treat each other with mutual respect. Achieving this goal will require intense collaboration and this can only be done if there is good will amongst the participants.
- 2) Participants respect the intellectual contributions of other participants. This project will require sharing information, knowledge, and expertise and there needs to be confidence that contributions are properly acknowledged and attributed.
- 3) When possible, participants commit to the open and free flow of information which may benefit other projects and accelerate our joint mission.
- 4) Restoration and protection of kelp forests is not a substitute for climate action. Healthy kelp forests may have a role in mitigating CO₂ emissions but they cannot replace the need to reduce and eliminate CO₂ emissions. Further, all participants are asked to reflect on how their own activities may contribute to CO₂ emissions and consider how to reduce those contributions.
- 5) Any restoration activities strive to achieve the standards set out by the Society for Ecological Restoration. In brief these principles are:
 - a. Engaging stakeholders
 - b. Recognizing and using different types of knowledge
 - c. Considering reference ecosystems while acknowledging environmental change
 - d. Restoring ecological processes and ecosystem connections
 - e. Using clear goals and objectives with measurable indicators
 - f. Seeking the highest level of ecosystem recovery possible
 - g. Working to achieve restoration at the ecosystem level



- h. Acknowledging that restoration is one of several tools to protect biodiversity, ecosystem services, and social wellbeing.
- 6) Ecosystem restoration and ecosystem protection are often both necessary. Ecosystems will still need protection after restoration. Further, restoration is not a substitute for good management which can prevent the degradation of an ecosystem in the first place. Therefore,
 - a. Preventing the decline or disappearance of an ecosystem is the first priority.
 - b. Restoration should only occur if the original cause of decline has been removed or mitigated.
- 7) Projects will respect the territorial rights and custodianship of indigenous owners and aboriginal peoples.
- 8) Project will engage a diversity of stakeholders, residents, and voices when developing projects and ensure that benefits of a healthy ecosystem are equitably distributed and accessible.
- 9) The data needed for science-based decision making in kelp forest ecosystems is currently limited. This gap does not preclude the need to make decisions and act. It does however stipulate that the advice and recommendations may change in the future as more data is collected.

These principles may be expanded as the project develops.

