CLAIMS

1. A salty taste enhancer comprising a volatile component with a molecular weight of less than 200 derived from a kelp .

2. The salty taste enhancer according to claim 1, wherein the kelp is an enzymatically treated kelp.

3. The salty taste enhancer according to claim 1 or 2, which comprises a volatile component with a molecular weight of 200 or more derived from the kelp in an amount of less than 60% by weight relative to an amount of a volatile component with a molecular weight of 200 or more contained in the starting kelp.

4. A method for producing the salty taste enhancer according to claim 1, which comprises distilling a kelp to give a salty taste enhancer comprising a volatile component with a molecular weight of less than 200 derived from the kelp.

5. A method for producing the salty taste enhancer according to claim 3, which comprises distilling a kelp to give a salty taste enhancer comprising: a volatile component with a molecular weight of less than 200 derived from the kelp; and a volatile component with a molecular weight of 200 or more derived from the kelp in an amount of less than 60% by weight relative to an amount of a volatile component with a molecular weight of 200 or more contained in the starting kelp.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein a volatile component is captured from the start of the distillation to a point at which the volatile component is obtained in an amount of 20 ppm or less relative to the weight of the starting kelp.

7. The method according to any of claims 4 to 6, wherein the distillation is conducted after the kelp was treated with an enzyme.

8. A kelp extract which comprises a mixture of the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 1 to 3 and an extract containing a non-volatile component of the kelp.

9. The kelp extract according to claim 8, wherein the extract containing a non-volatile component of the kelp is an extract containing a non-volatile component of the kelp, which is obtained after distilling the kelp to remove a volatile component from the kelp.

10. A food or drink comprising the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 1 to 3.

11. A food or drink comprising the kelp extract according to claim 8 or 9.

CLAIMS

1. A food or drink comprising the kelp extract, which comprises a mixture of the salty taste enhancer comprising a volatile component with a molecular weight of less than 200 derived from a kelp and an extract containing a non-volatile component of the kelp.