

**2020 ROCKWEED (*Ascophyllum nodosum*)
HARVEST PLAN
FOR COBSCOOK BAY
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE**

Submitted to:

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
Augusta, Maine**

Submitted by:

**James Young
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Introduction

In accordance with Sec. 1. MRSA § 6802 8., I, James Young, submit this harvest plan for the purpose of identifying my objectives and methods for the harvest of rockweed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*) in Cobscook Bay for the year of 2020.

Biomass Assessment

In 2020, I plan to harvest 17% or less of the total harvestable biomass from the sectors allotted to me, as allowed by Sec. 1. MRSA § 6802 10.

The annual harvestable biomass for the sectors in which I will conduct harvesting is determined using satellite imagery to calculate, in square yds, the total area of the rockweed beds in each sector. These areas are then revised to exclude all the conservation areas designated as “no harvest” zones. I then use the revised square yd numbers, convert them to square footage, and calculated the total harvestable biomass in each sector using the pounds of rockweed per square foot numbers generated by sampling each sector. Sampling consisted of laying a one hundred foot transect at random, laying down a yard square frame every twenty five feet along this line, cutting and weighing the “harvestable” rockweed within the frame (above 16 inches or lowest lateral branch), and then calculating a pounds per square foot figure. The annual harvestable biomass figures were then determined by multiplying the total harvestable biomass by the 17% per year allowable harvest.

Harvest Areas and Quantities

I plan to harvest no more than 17% of the harvestable biomass contained in my allotted sectors. The sectors I am looking to harvest in 2020 are A-18 in Bar Harbor; A-24 in The Falls; A-25 thru A-30 in Denny’s Bay; and A-31 in Whiting Bay.

A list of sectors and updated biomass surveys will be submitted before harvesting 2020

Harvest Records and Audit Trail

As the owner/operator of my harvesting boat, I will keep daily records of harvested rockweed in regards to tonnage, sector, and to whom the rockweed is sold. Further, records of my harvest will be reported to the Maine Department of Marine Resources by monthly landings reports.

Methods of Harvest

I plan to harvest rockweed in Cobscook Bay using a Maine designed, and built, mechanical cutter on my harvest boat. Mechanical cutters of this kind have been used effectively in Maine for over fifteen years.

Bycatch Management

I will return all visible by-catch to the waters of Cobscook Bay as soon as practicable.

Random sampling will be done upon landing of the rockweed. Samples will be looked at for the presence of animal and plant species. Records of bycatch observed will be kept by me.

Harvester Training

All harvesters that will work on my boat, whether myself or another licensed harvester, will be educated in the areas of cutting regulations and techniques, sector recognition, by-catch avoidance, and reporting requirements.

Harvesters, on my boat, who do not abide by the regulations set forth by the Department of Marine Resources, or the guidelines set forth by myself, will be terminated.

