

February 16, 2024

2024 Rockweed (*Ascophyllum Nodosum*)
Harvest plan for Cobscook Bay
Washington County, Maine

Submitted to:

Maine Department of Marine Resources
Augusta, Maine

Submitted by:

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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 harvest of rockweed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*) in Cobscook Bay for the year of 2024.

Biomass Assessment

In 2024 I plan to harvest 17% or less of the total harvestable biomass from the sectors allotted to me, as allowed by Sec. MRSA 6802 10.

The annual harvestable biomass for the sectors in which I wish to conduct my harvesting operations is determined using satellite imagery, to calculate, in square yds., the total area of the rockweed beds in each sector. These numbers are then revised to exclude all the conservation area designated “no harvest” zones. The revised sq. yd. information is then converted into sq. ft. and multiplied by the sector biomass per sq. ft. field sampling. The annual total harvestable biomass is determined by calculating 17 % of the overall sector biomass.

Harvest Areas

Sectors I am applying for in 2024 are, South Bay A-10,11,12 Bar Harbor A-18, The Falls A-24, Denny’s Bay A-25,26,27,28,29,30,31

Harvest Record and Audit Trail

As the owner operator of my harvesting boat, I will keep daily records of the harvested rockweed with regards to tonnage, sector, and to whom the rockweed is sold. Further, records of my harvest will be submitted to Maine Dept. of Marine Resources by monthly landing reports.

I plan to harvest rockweed in Cobscook Bay using a Maine designed and built mechanical cutter on my harvest boat.

Bycatch Management

I will return all visible bycatch to the waters of Cobscook Bay as soon as practicable.

Random sampling will be done upon landing of the rockweed. Sample will be looked at for the presence of bycatch.

Harvester Training

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

All sectors applied for in 2024 will need current biomass assessments before harvesting. These assessments will be conducted and submitted to Maine Dept of Marine Resources upon approval of the 2024 harvest plan