

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

**Submitted to:  
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES  
State of Maine  
Augusta, Maine**

**Submitted by:  
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**February 12, 2020**

## Proposed Harvest Sectors for Cobscook Bay 2020

Area	Sector	Total Harvestable Biomass	Budget 2020	Last survey
		(Short tons)	(Short tons)	
<b>Johnson Bay</b>	A-1	392	67	2019
	A-2	626	107	2019
	A-3	543	93	2019
	A-4	1483	252	2016
	A-5	246	42	2019
	A-6	337	57	2017
	A-7	337	57	2017
	A-8	848	144	2017
		<b>4812</b>	<b>819</b>	
<b>Bar Harbor</b>	A-17	1065	181	2018
	A-19	946	161	2018
		<b>2,011</b>	<b>342</b>	
<b>East Bay</b>	A-20	2528	430	2019
	A-21	2,027	345	2019
		<b>4,555</b>	<b>775</b>	
<b>Bar Harbour</b>	A-14	481	82	2019
	A-15	249	42	2019
		<b>730</b>	<b>124</b>	
<b>Pannamaguan River</b>	A-22	591	100	2017
	A-23	2079	354	2017
		<b>2670</b>	<b>454</b>	
<b>Whiting Bay</b>	A-34	923	157	2017
	A-35	2040	347	2017
	A-36	812	138	2017
		<b>3775</b>	<b>642</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18553</b>	<b>3156</b>	

## **Harvest Method**

The harvest of Rockweed in Maine will be carried out primarily from small boats utilizing unique cutter rakes designed by the company specifically for the Rockweed harvest. Additionally, some harvest may be conducted with a mechanical harvester.

These harvest methods have proven to be efficient and sustainable with minimal disturbance to the habitat and influence on associated species.

By nature, the boat and rake method ensure a low exploitation rate and leaves more than ample canopy for intertidal dwellers, allows for rapid regeneration of harvested plants and suppressed shoots and minimizes the disturbance of the habitat architecture. Mechanical harvesting also leaves behind ample canopy and has shown to result in even lower bycatch than the boat and rake method.

## **HARVEST AREAS AND HARVEST QUANTITIES**

During the 2020 season harvesting will be carried out in 19 selected sectors in Cobscook Bay. The total projected harvest will be 3,156 short tons. All of the harvesting sectors will be harvested at 17% or less of their total harvestable biomass. Control of the daily harvested amount for each sector is recorded as per ASL's sector landing reporting instructions.

This will be achieved by recruiting a sufficient number of local harvesters operating for up to twenty weeks from May to the end of September.

Our plan involves harvesters using mobile bagging platforms as boat unloading sites that can be moved to various harvesting locations within the harvesting area as well as wharf sites to unload boats into open top dump trailers for transportation.

Success in the recruitment of harvesters within the general area will be paramount in establishing a harvesting force capable of achieving our objective.

## **Biomass Survey**

Of the 19 sectors applied for, Sectors A-4, A-6, A-7, A-8, A-22, A-23, A-34, A-35, and A-36 have not been surveyed during the last three years. A new survey will be carried out between April and June by ASL in all of these sectors to determine their current biomass status. The survey will be carried out before the harvest season using the established standard procedure; taking 10 random samples along a 30m transect positioned in the middle portion of a rockweed bed. The number of transects will be determined in the field according to the size of the sector. The results of the survey will be used to adjust this pre-established budget.

## **Harvester Safety**

Prior to the 2020 season, harvesters will be provided with safety training on shore and on the water that will consist of familiarization with US Coast Guard Regulations for small vessels, the effects of wind and tides and the partnering of inexperienced harvesters with experienced

harvesters. ASL will provide harvesters with a copy of its Rockweed Harvesting Safety Guidelines and it will be stressed to all harvesters that good judgment and responsible actions are key elements to safe harvesting. Small vessel training will be scheduled by ASL on behalf of the harvesters prior to the start of the harvest season. Harvesters will be required to participate in all training sessions sponsored by the company.

All harvesting vessels will be equipped with the required safety devices (e.g. life jackets, flares, sound devices, etc.) complying with the US Coast Guard Regulations. Additionally, the company Health and Safety Director will work with harvesters to educate and encourage them to ensure their equipment meets required safety specifications.

### **Harvester Recruitment and Training**

ASL will place a strong emphasis on the hiring of local people who may already have the operational skills and knowledge required for working safely on the water. Other persons interested in Rockweed harvesting will be recruited and trained on the safe operation of a small vessel and all components of the Rockweed harvesting operations with a strong emphasis on safety. It is estimated that 16 direct jobs and 4 indirect jobs will be created related to the harvest activity.

Familiarization of all aspects of Rockweed harvesting will be carried out during the company's pre-harvest kick-off meeting with the seasoned and new harvesters. Training of new harvesters will be conducted via information sessions with company resource personnel and in the field by experienced harvesters who will remain on site for training for as long as necessary. Training will include familiarizing harvesters with proper boat handling, general boat safety, harvesting technique, cutter rake maintenance, boat unloading technique, harvesting regulations and guidelines, harvest data collection and other related information.

Respectfully submitted,

Jake Patryn and Alison Feibel

Deidre Gilbert  
Maine Department of Marine Resources  
21 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

February 12, 2020

Dear Deidre:

Please find enclosed, Acadian Seaplants proposed 2020 Harvest Plan for Cobscook Bay, State of Maine. We are applying for the following sectors; A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5, A-6, A-7, A-8, A-14, A-15, A-17, A-19, A-20, A-21, A-22, A-23, A34, A35 and A36 for a total of 19 sectors with 3,156 short tons of available annual harvestable biomass.

Sincerely,

Jake Patryn and Alison Feibel  
Acadian Seaplants Limited