

**2022 ROCKWEED (*Ascophyllum nodosum*)
HARVEST PLAN
FOR COBSCOOK BAY, MAINE**

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

**Submitted by:
ACADIAN SEAPLANTS LIMITED
1244 Highway 1, PO Box 88
Jonesboro, ME
Tel. 207-479-1571**

February 25, 2022

Proposed Harvest Sectors for Cobscook Bay 2022

Area	Sector	Total Harvestable Biomass	Budget 2022	Last survey
		(Short tons)	(Short tons)	
Johnson Bay	A-1	392	67	2019
	A-2	626	107	2019
	A-3	543	93	2019
	A-4	1,185	201	2021
	A-5	246	42	2019
	A-6	184	31	2020
	A-7	712	121	2020
	A-8	669	114	2020
	A-13	465	79	2018
		5,022	855	
Bar Harbor	A-16	1,658	282	2016
	A-17	1,194	203	2021
	A-19	1,024	174	2021
		3,876	659	
East Bay	A-20	2,528	430	2019
	A-21	2,027	345	2019
		4,555	775	
Bar Harbour	A-14	481	82	2019
	A-15	249	42	2019
		730	124	
Pannamaguan River	A-22	458	78	2020
	A-23	1,111	189	2020
		1,569	267	
Whiting Bay	A-34	468	80	2020
	A-35	1,135	193	2020
	A-36	625	106	2020
		2,228	379	
Grand Total	21	17,980	3,059	

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 2022 season harvesting will be carried out in 21 selected sectors in Cobscook Bay. The total projected harvest will be 3,059 short tons. All 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-six weeks from May to the end of October.

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 21 sectors applied for Sectors A-1, A-2, A-3, A-5, A-13, A-14, A-15, A-16, A-20 and A-21 have not been surveyed during the last three years. A new survey will be carried out between May and June by ASL in these sectors to determine their current biomass status. The survey will be carried out before harvesting begins in those sectors 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 2022 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 8 - 12 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 25, 2022

Dear Deirdre:

Please find enclosed, Acadian Seaplants' proposed 2022 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-13, A-14, A-15, A-16, A-17, A-19, A-20, A-21, A-22, A-23, A-34, A-35 and A-36 for a total of 21 sectors with 3,059 short tons of available annual harvestable biomass.

Sincerely,

Jake Patryn and Alison Feibel
Acadian Seaplants Limited