

2021 ROCKWEED (*Ascophyllum nodosum*)

HARVEST PLAN COBSCOOK BAY

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE

Submitted to:

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Augusta, Maine

Submitted by:

James Young P.O. Box 132 Eastport, Maine 04631

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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 2021.

Biomass Assessment

In 2021, 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 are 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 2021 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 in year 2021

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.