

**2011 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., North American Kelp submits this harvest plan for the purpose of identifying North American Kelp's objectives and methods for the harvest of rockweed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*) in Cobscook Bay for the year of 2011.

North American Kelp has long held the belief that the responsible and sustainable harvest of the people of Maine's marine resources is essential for the economic health of this state.

North American Kelp is dedicated to opening up new markets and opportunities for Maine's working waterfront and is committed to creating long term employment through the harvesting and processing of rockweed right here in Maine, as we have been at our plant in Waldoboro for almost forty years.

Biomass Assessment

In 2011, North American Kelp plans to harvest 17% or less of the total harvestable biomass from the sectors allotted to us, as allowed by Sec. 1. MRSA § 6802 10.

The annual harvestable biomass for the sectors in which North American Kelp will conduct our harvesting operations was determined by the Maine Department of Marine Resources. As directed by the Maine Department of Marine Resources, North American Kelp will be using the same harvestable biomass estimates as used for the 2009 & 2010 Cobscook Bay harvest year.

Harvest Areas and Quantities

North American Kelp, in 2011, plans to harvest a total of 879 short tons of rockweed. This number represents 17% of the total harvestable biomass in each of our allotted sectors. The sectors we are looking to harvest in 2010 are A-25 and A-28 in Denny's Bay, as well as A-34 through A-36 in Whiting Bay.

Due to North American Kelp's predominately mechanized harvest methods and our ability to process rockweed, we are able utilize this resource year round regardless of weather. For this reason, we should have no problem reaching our quota for the 2011 harvest year.

A list of the sectors that North American Kelp will be harvesting and their individual annual harvestable biomass figures can be found in Attachment A. A map of these sectors can be found in Attachment B.

Harvest Records and Audit Trail

Experienced local watermen, with knowledge of Cobscook Bay, will harvest rockweed for North American Kelp.

Harvesters will harvest rockweed in designated sectors managed by North American Kelp.

Each trained licensed harvester will be issued specified management sectors to harvest weekly/daily. When harvesters bring their seaweed in for weigh in, a duplicate slip will be issued to verify the sector number that the seaweed came from and the tonnage received, and will be signed by the harvester. One slip will be kept by the harvester, the other will be kept by North American Kelp.

The slip kept by North American Kelp will then go to the accounting department for payment to harvester. The tonnage and sector number from each slip will be recorded on a weekly basis into the management plan. This will allow North American Kelp to keep track of harvest data for both the monthly seaweed buyers report and for the harvesting management plan.

North American Kelp will also require all harvesters to give us a signed copy of their monthly landings report to be kept on file here at our office.

The collection of all these records will ensure a simple and timely third party verification of harvest numbers.

Methods of Harvest

North American Kelp plans to harvest rockweed in Cobscook Bay using:

1. Maine designed cutting blade on a hand rake, used effectively in Maine for over twenty years.
2. Maine designed, and built, mechanical cutters on harvest boats, used effectively in Maine for over twelve years.

Bycatch Management

All harvesters will be instructed to return all visible by-catch to the waters of Cobscook Bay as soon as practicable.

Random sampling will be done on each truck load of rockweed, prior to processing, by an employee of North American Kelp to inspect for bycatch. Samples will be looked at for the presence of animal and plant species. Records of bycatch observed will be kept at North American Kelp.

North American Kelp takes the issue of the harvesting of non-target species seriously. Any harvester shown to have a disregard for limited bycatch will be subject to disciplinary actions or termination.

Harvester Training

All new harvesters will be trained by an experienced harvester in the areas of cutting regulations and techniques, sector recognition, by-catch avoidance, and reporting requirements.

Harvesters who do not abide by the regulations set forth by the Department of Marine Resources, or the guidelines set forth by North American Kelp, will be terminated.

Attachment A

North American Kelp
2011 Cobscook Bay Harvest Plan
Sector Breakdown

AREA	SECTOR #	TOTAL ROCKWEED BIOMASS	TOTAL BIOMASS MINUS CONSERVATION	AVAILABLE BIOMASS (17%)	2011 PLANNED HARVEST
Denny's Bay	A-25	1967	1180	201	201
	A-28	792	713	121	121
		2759	1893	322	322
Whiting Bay	A-34	1477	886	151	151
	A-35	1747	1572	267	267
	A-36	908	817	139	139
		4132	3275	557	557
	TOTALS	6891	5168	879	879

Attachment B

