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Patrick Keliher  
Commissioner  
Maine Department of Marine Resources  
21 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

March 01, 2012

Commission Keliher,

Please find enclosed, Acadian Seaplants proposed 2012 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-16, A-19, A-20, A-21 for a total of nine sectors with 1,501 short tons of available harvestable biomass.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bryant  
Acadian Seaplants Limited  
Director of Maine Operations

**2012 ROCKWEED (*Ascophyllum nodosum*)  
HARVEST PLAN  
FOR COBSCOOK BAY, MAINE**

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

**Submitted by:**

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**March 01, 2012**

## Proposed Harvest Sectors for Cobscook Bay 2012

Area	Sector	Total Harvestable Biomass (Short tons)	Budget 2012 (Short tons)
<b>Johnson Bay</b>	A-1	539	92
	A-2	626	106
	A-3	434	74
	A-4	1482	252
	A-5	469	72
		<b>3,550</b>	<b>596</b>
<b>Bar Harbour</b>	A-16	1404	239
	A-19	894	152
			<b>2,298</b>
<b>East Bay</b>	A-20	1609	274
	A-21	1767	240
			<b>3,376</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9,224</b>	<b>1,501</b>

### Harvest Method

The harvest of Rockweed in Maine will be carried out from small boats utilizing unique cutter rakes designed by the company specifically for the Rockweed harvest.

This harvest method has proven to be efficient and sustainable with minimal disturbance to the habitat and influence on associated species.

By nature, this process ensures 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.

### HARVEST AREAS AND HARVEST QUANTITIES

During the 2012 season harvesting will be carried out in selected sectors in Cobscook Bay. The total projected harvest will be 1,501 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 June 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.

### **Harvester Safety**

Prior to the 2012 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 10 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,

Dennis Bryant,



Director, Maine Operations