

**2011 ROCKWEED (*Ascophyllum nodosum*)
HARVEST PLAN
FOR COBSCOOK BAY
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE**

Submitted to:

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
Augusta, Maine**

Submitted by:

**George (Butch) Harris Jr.
13 Old Redoubt Road
Eastport, ME 04631
207-853-2500**

February 25, 2011

Introduction

In accordance with Sec. 1. MRSA § 6802 8., George Harris submits this harvest plan for the purpose of identifying the objectives and methods for the harvest of rockweed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*) in Cobscook Bay for the year of 2011.

Butch believes that the responsible and sustainable harvest of the people of Maine's marine resources is essential for the economic health of this state.

Butch 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, with plans of developing a drying plant in Eastport Maine in the future.

Biomass Assessment

In 2011, George Harris 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 Butch will conduct his harvesting operations was determined by the Maine Department of Marine Resources. As directed by the Maine Department of Marine Resources, George Harris will be using the same harvestable biomass estimates as used for the 2010 Cobscook Bay harvest year.

Harvest Areas and Quantities

George Harris, in 2011, plans to harvest a total of 906 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 2011 are A-13 Johnson Bay, A-14, A-15, A17, A18 Bar harbor and A-27 Denny's Bay.

A list of the sectors that George Harris will be harvesting and the individual annual harvestable biomass figures can be found in Attachment A.

Harvest Records and Audit Trail

- Experienced local watermen, with knowledge of Cobscook Bay.
- Harvesters will harvest rockweed in designated sectors.

- Each trained licensed harvester will be issued specified 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.
- The slip will be signed by the harvester.
- One slip will be kept by the harvester; the other will be kept by the buyer.
- The slip kept by the buyer 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 the buyer to keep track of harvest data for both the monthly seaweed buyers report and for the harvesting management plan.
- The buyer will also require all harvesters to turn in a signed copy of their monthly landings report to be kept on file here at their office.
- The collection of all these records will ensure a simple and timely third party verification of harvest numbers.

Methods of Harvest

George Harris 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 Butch Harris 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 the site of the buyer's process facility.

Butch 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, will be terminated.

Attachment "A"

Attachment "A" is the proposed breakdown of the total harvestable Rockweed in Cobscook Bay. The bay has been divided up between the six harvesters.

Attachment "A"								
Area	Sector	Available Biomass (17% of Total minus Conserved) Short tons	Acadian Seaplants Ltd. - proposed	Patrick Driscoll - proposed	George Harris Jr. - proposed	North American Kelp - proposed	Cullen G. Williams - proposed	James M. Young - proposed
Johnson Bay	A-1	92	92					
Johnson Bay	A-2	106	106					
Johnson Bay	A-3	74	74					
Johnson Bay	A-4	252	252					
Johnson Bay	A-5	72	72					
South Bay	A-6	42		42				
South Bay	A-7	34		34				
South Bay	A-8	98		98				
South Bay	A-9	0	x	x	x	x	x	x
South Bay	A-10	59		59				
South Bay	A-11	55		55				
South Bay	A-12	101		101				
Johnson Bay	A-13	216			216			
Bar Harbour	A-14	70			70			
Bar Harbour	A-15	35			35			
Bar Harbour	A-16	239	239					
Bar Harbour	A-17	240			240			
Bar Harbour	A-18	179			179			
Bar Harbour	A-19	152	152					
East Bay	A-20	274	274					
East Bay	A-21	240	240					
Pennamaquan	A-22	125		125				
Pennamaquan	A-23	335		335				
The Falls	A-24	430					430	
Denny's Bay	A-25	201				201		
Denny's Bay	A-26	82		82				
Denny's Bay	A-27	166			166			
Denny's Bay	A-28	121				121		
Denny's Bay	A-29	93						93
Denny's Bay	A-30	439						439
Whiting Bay	A-31	190						190
Whiting Bay	A-32	0	x	x	x	x	x	x
Whiting Bay	A-33	8						8
Whiting Bay	A-34	151				151		
Whiting Bay	A-35	267				267		
Whiting Bay	A-36	139				139		
Whiting Bay	Park	0	x	x	x	x	x	x
Total		5378	1501	931	906	879	430	730

**COBSCOOK BAY 2011 - PROPOSED ROCKWEED HARVEST ALLOCATIONS (SHORT TONS BY SECTOR)
CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF SUBMITTED PLANS BY DMR COMMISSIONER**