

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

Submitted to:

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

Submitted by:

**North American Kelp
41 Cross St.
Waldoboro, Maine 04572
(207)-832-5376**

February 24, 2012

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 2012.

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 forty-one years.

Biomass Assessment

In 2012, 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 using information supplied to us by Seth Barker of the Maine department of Marine Resources. Seth Barker, using satellite imagery, was able to calculate, in square meters, the total area of the rockweed beds in each sector. These numbers were then revised to exclude all the conservation area designated as "no harvest" zones. North American Kelp then took the revised square meter numbers, converted them to square footage, and calculated the total harvestable biomass in each sector using a figure of 2.1 pounds of rockweed per square foot. Our figure of 2.1 pounds per square foot was determined through ground-truthing samples taken throughout 2011. The annual harvestable biomass figures were then determined by multiplying the total harvestable biomass by the 17% per year allowable harvest.

Harvest Areas and Quantities

North American Kelp, in 2012, plans to harvest a total of 936 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 2012 are A-4 in Johnson 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 2012 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.

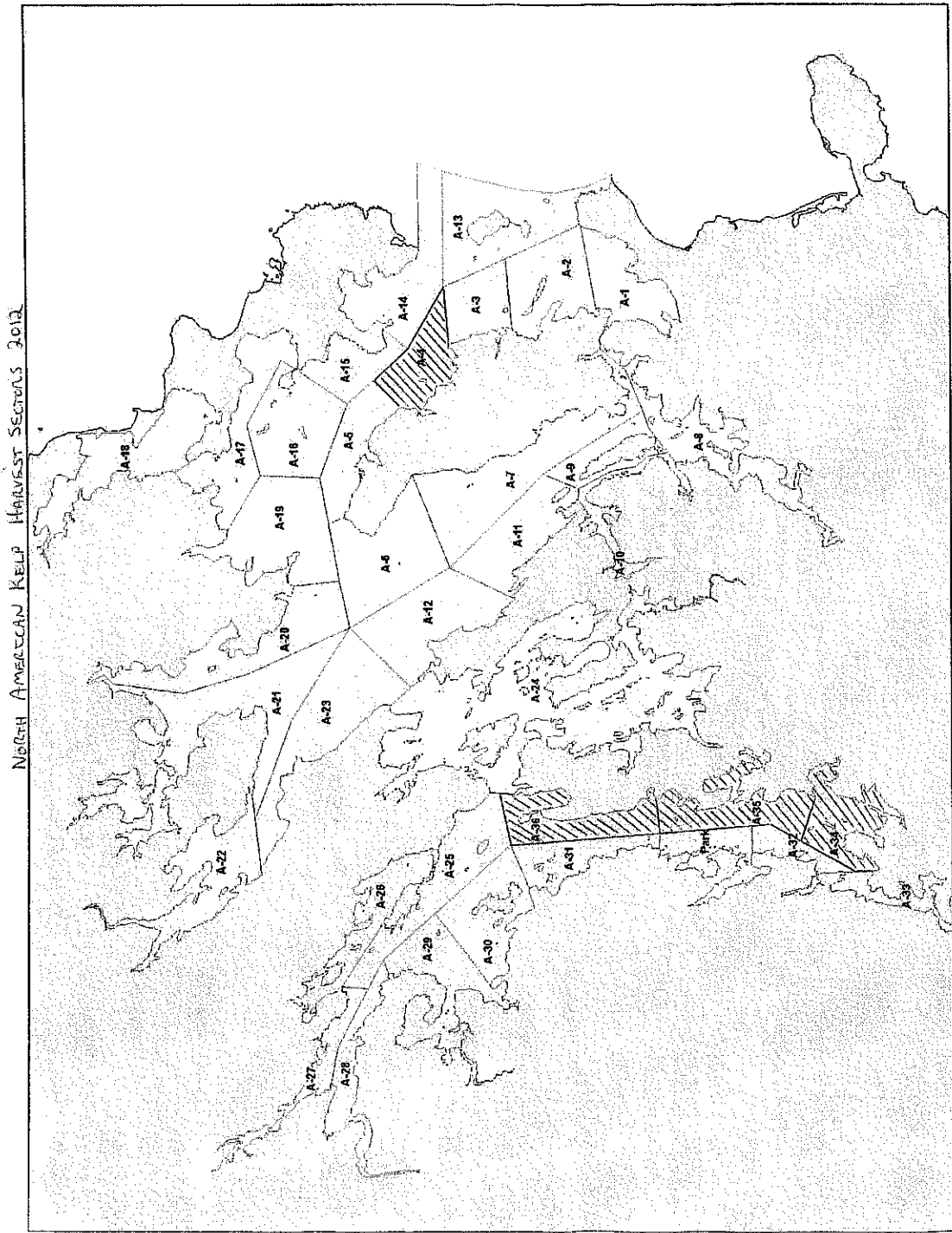
Harvesters who do not abide by the regulations set forth by the Department of Marine Resources, or the guidelines set forth by North American Kelp, will be terminated.

Attachment A

North American Kelp 2012 Cobscook Bay Harvest Plan Sector Breakdown

AREA	SECTOR #		TOTAL BIOMASS MINUS CONSERVATION	AVAILABLE BIOMASS (17%)	2012 PLANNED HARVEST
Johnson Bay	A-4		996	169	169
			996	169	169
Whiting Bay	A-34		1486	252	252
	A-35		1483	252	252
	A-36		1551	263	263
			4520	767	767
	TOTALS		5516	936	936

Attachment B



NORTH AMERICAN KELP HARVEST SECTIONS 2012