

MARINE VEGETATION COLLECTION FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES INFORMATION KIT

When is a Marine Vegetation Collection permit required?

The gathering of marine vegetation for commercial purposes is a small scale activity that operates along the length of the NSW coastline. A permit to Gather Marine Vegetation for Commercial Purposes is required under Clause 66 of the *Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2007*. Permits may be issued for the commercial collection of the following species: brown algae (*Ecklonia radiata*) and bubble weed (*Phyllospora*), species referred to as seaweed wrack, blackfish weed (*Enteromorpha intestinalis*) and sea lettuce (*Ulva lactuca*). A permit is not required where small amounts (less than 20kg) of seagrass and seaweed wrack are collected per day for personal use. However, volumes above this weight or commercial collection requires a permit.

If you are an individual or organisation who proposes to collect marine vegetation in order to sell it (with or without processing) you must apply for a permit by completing the Marine Vegetation Collection for Commercial Purposes application form.

The permit does not include permission to take a vehicle on to a beach therefore you will need to contact your local Council for further advice. Marine Vegetation Collection permits are valid for twelve months from the date of issuance unless cancelled.

An individual/organisation who collects more than 20kg of wrack per day for purposes other than commercial or proposes to damage or remove vegetation must submit an application for a permit to Cut, Remove, Damage or Destroy Marine Vegetation, including mangroves. You will need to contact the Conservation Manager in the area of the proposed activity.

Are there any restrictions on where I can collect?

- Aquatic Reserves. The collection of intertidal plants, both dead and alive, is prohibited within aquatic reserves in accordance with the *Fisheries Management (Aquatic Reserves) Regulation 2002*. A permit to Gather Marine Vegetation for Commercial Purposes will not be issued for an activity in any aquatic reserve.
- RAMSAR Wetlands (wetlands of international significance). A permit to Gather Marine Vegetation for Commercial Purposes will not be issued for RAMSAR wetlands eg, Kooragang Nature Reserve and Towra Point Nature Reserve.
- Intertidal Protected Areas. Nine intertidal protected areas have been established in the Sydney area to protect rocky habitats and intertidal species. A permit to Gather Marine Vegetation for Commercial Purposes will not be issued in any intertidal protected area.

To ascertain locations of Aquatic Reserves and intertidal protected areas please refer to the NSW DPI website, www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/ Fishing & Aquaculture/Habitat Protection/Marine Protected Areas.

When the proposed location(s) is near or within the boundaries of a Marine Park, Aquatic Reserve or IPA, relevant maps must be submitted by the

applicant. (i.e. if collection site is near or within a Marine Park, then the applicant must submit specific maps from the Marine Parks Authority clearly showing the proposed location). Google Earth maps may be used for alternate areas, however, they must be site specific with labels and identifiers used.

What requirements do I need in order to Complete the Application?

1. Submit a Marine Vegetation Collection for Commercial Purposes permit application. This involves completing every section of the form in clear and legible print. The proposed species type, specific collection location(s), collection quantity and collection methods must be specified. You will also be required to provide map(s) showing the proposed collection sites. An incomplete application form will result in the application being rejected.
2. Submit payment with the application. The applicant must submit the prescribed application fee (refer to the fee schedule on the NSW DPI website). If payment is made at a local office of NSW DPI, a copy of the receipt must be attached to the application.
3. Consult with local Council where the proposed activity is to be undertaken to identify any approvals/requirements specified by that particular Council. You must obtain written confirmation that the Council has been consulted and all requirements/approvals have been obtained. Please include a copy with your application.
4. Consult with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) if the gathering location is within, or adjacent to National Park Estate in order to identify any approvals/requirements specified by that agency. Consultation is also necessary where access through areas which are not normally open to the public is required. You must obtain written confirmation that the DECC has been consulted and all requirements/approvals have been obtained. Please include a copy with your application, if applicable.
5. Consult with Marine Parks Authority if the gathering location is within, or adjacent to a Marine Park in order to identify any approvals/requirements specified by that agency. You must obtain written confirmation that the Marine Parks Authority has been consulted and all requirements/approvals have been obtained. Please include a copy of the approval with your application, if applicable.

How long should the application take ?

If the above requirements have been met you should allow 4-6 weeks for processing. If your application is successful you will be required to submit NSW DPI with a monthly record of marine vegetation harvested.

How can the application fee be paid?

There are several methods available for the payment of fees.

1. Complete the credit card section on the application form to make payment by credit card.
2. Submit a cheque or money order with your application, made payable to NSW Department of Primary Industries.
3. Pay at any office of NSW DPI using the methods available there and attach the receipt to the application.

Where can more information be obtained?

More information about applying for an application to Gather Marine Vegetation for Commercial Purposes may be obtained from calling (02) 9527 8411.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST	
This checklist will help you to lodge a successful application.	
Has the applicant completed every section of the application form?	
Has the applicant included a map of the proposed collection location?	
Has the applicant consulted with Council and attached the relevant approval?	
If applicable, has the applicant consulted with DECC and attached relevant approvals?	
If applicable, has the applicant consulted with the Marine Parks Authority and attached relevant approvals?	
Is the processing fee (made payable to NSW Department of Primary Industries), or receipt of such fee, or credit card details supplied with the application?	