



ADF&G Guide to Aquatic Plant Harvest

Alaska Food Policy Council
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Harvest of Aquatic Plants in Alaska

- ▶ What is the purpose for your collection?
 - ▶ Gardening
 - ▶ Food products
 - ▶ Commercial products
- ▶ Where are you located?
 - ▶ Subsistence area vs. nonsubsistence area
- ▶ What type of plants do you want to collect?
 - ▶ Attached plants
 - ▶ Free-floating or beach wrack

What is the purpose for your collection?

Noncommercial

- Gardening
- Food
- Medicinal/beauty products

Authorized through subsistence or personal use regulations.

Commercial

- Small scale farmer's market
 - Cottage Food Industry (DEC)
- Larger scale business

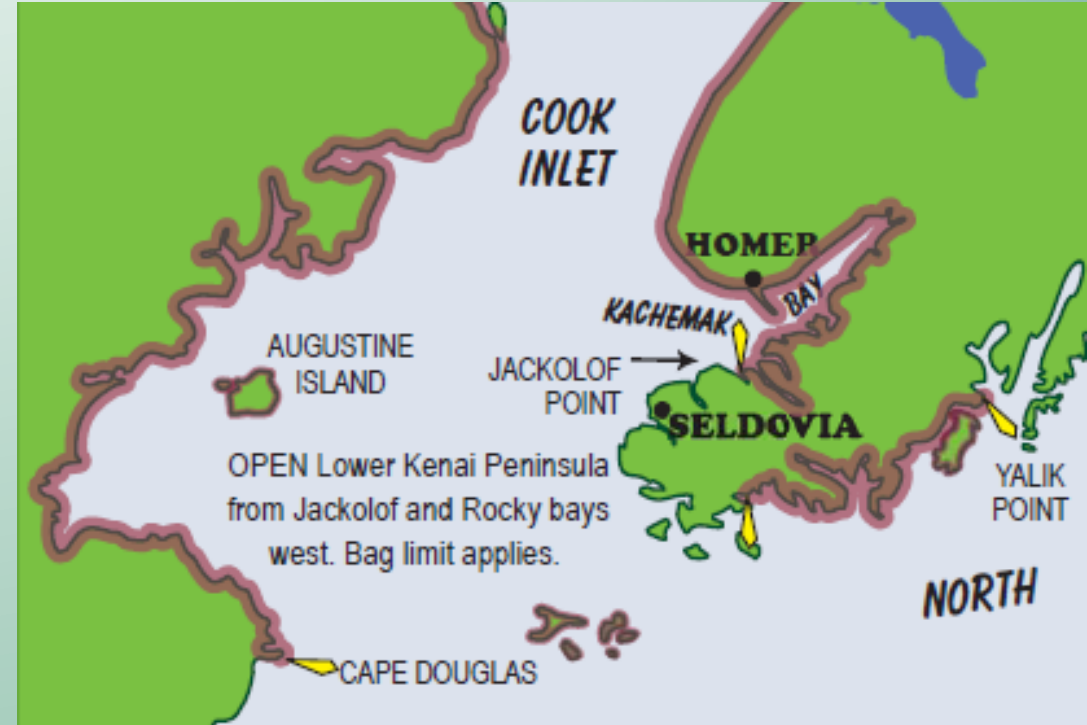
Authorized through a Commissioner's Permit. AS 16.05.050 (9)

Where are you located?

Nonsubsistence Use Areas in Alaska



[Fairbanks](#) [Anchorage](#) [Valdez](#) [Juneau](#) [Ketchikan](#)





Nonsubsistence Areas Personal Use Regulations - Southeast

5 AAC 77.679. Personal use aquatic plant fishery

Aquatic plants may be harvested by hand for personal use at any time, and there are no daily harvest or possession limits, except that:

- (a) within the **Ketchikan** Nonsubsistence Area defined in [5 AAC 99.015\(1\)](#), there are no harvest limits, except that along the shoreline adjacent to the Ketchikan road system, the daily harvest and possession **limit is 10 gallons** of aquatic plants, with no limits to the harvest of aquatic plants that have been naturally dislodged from the substrate; and
- (b) within the **Juneau** Nonsubsistence Area defined in [5 AAC 99.015\(2\)](#), the daily harvest and possession **limit is 5 gallons** of aquatic plants, except that
 - (1) the shoreline adjacent to the Juneau road system is closed to the taking of aquatic plants, and;
 - (2) there is no limit to the harvest of aquatic plants that have been naturally dislodged from the substrate and are located at or above the daily high tide line.



Nonsubsistence Areas Personal Use Regulations - Southcentral

5 AAC 77.532. Personal use aquatic plant fishery Within the **Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai** Nonsubsistence Area defined in **5 AAC 99.015(3)**, the harvest of aquatic plants is closed, except that from January 1 through April 30 and September 1 through December 31, aquatic plants that have been naturally dislodged from the substrate and are located at or above the daily high tide line may be harvested by hand.

The daily harvest **limit is 10 gallons** per person. No permit is required.

What type of aquatic plants do you want to collect?

- ▶ Aquatic Plants
 - ▶ Sea asparagus
 - ▶ Seaweed
 - ▶ Red or green algae
 - ▶ Brown algae - Kelps
- ▶ Free floating/dislodged beach wrack



Photo credit Alicia Bishop



Photo credit Michelle Warrenchuck



Harvesting requirements for Macrocyctis kelp

- **5 AAC 37.300.**
- Macrocyctis kelp shall be harvested in a manner that prevents dislodging of the entire plant from the bottom and prevents straining or breaking the plant.
- Macrocyctis kelp may not be cut at a depth greater than one foot below the surface of the water, and only the upper portion of the plant may be retained.
- The use of diving gear to harvest macrocyctis kelp is prohibited.
- The department shall close to the harvest of macrocyctis kelp areas in which herring are spawning.



Questions?

Additional questions can be directed to your local ADF&G area office.

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=contacts.main>

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