

Searching for Seaweed Beach Walk

Jefferson Co. Marine Resources Committee, Sept 1, 2019



SEAWEED HARVESTING GUIDELINES

1. You must have a **current recreational shellfish/seaweed license to collect seaweed**, even if it's seaweed that has washed up on shore.
2. Follow harvesting rules listed below.

SEAWEED RULES (WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Sport Fishing Rules Publication)

Many county & city parks have additional rules or closures. Check local regulations before harvesting.

- For all Marine Areas: All species year-round daily limit of 10 lbs. wet weight. Illegal to harvest any seaweed if herring eggs are attached.
- All State Park beaches are closed to seaweed harvest (*Exceptions: Fort Flagler, Fort Ebey and Fort Worden State Parks are open to seaweed harvest ONLY from mid-April to mid-May each year. Check annual WDFW Sport Fishing Rules info or website for specific dates*).
- Bull kelp must be cut a minimum of 24" above the bulb and short stemmed kelps must be cut a minimum of 12" above the anchor point. The anchor point must be left in place at all times.
- Only a knife or similar instrument may be used to harvest seaweed. Tearing the plant and use of tined instruments such as a rake or fork is prohibited.
- Each harvester must use their own container. Multiple limits may not be combined in the same container.
- Each harvester must use a scale to determine when the harvest limit has been reached. Drying or partial drying prior to weighing is prohibited.

Other Notes

- Pickleweed (*Salicornia*) is included as part of seaweed harvesting rules.
- For health and safety, It is recommended that you do not harvest seaweeds in areas that are closed to shellfish harvesting because of bio-toxins or septic concerns. Seaweed won't absorb these toxins, but toxins or even cysts may be attached to the seaweed's surface.
- You must get landowner permission to harvest on private tidelands. Public tidelands and shellfish beaches (owned by DNR, WDFW or city/county) are okay if that landowner agency regulations permit such harvesting.
- Bull kelp and short-stemmed kelp harvesting rules also apply to kelp washed up on shore. Kelp found on the beach may be fresh enough for consumption, and fresh, attached kelp may get washed back out to sea. The purpose for these rules is to ensure annual kelp can recover and reproduce later in the year.
- WDFW is currently in the process of updating and clarifying regulations about shellfish and seaweed harvesting.