



May 31, 2022

Nicole Palma
MPA Collaborative Network, Program Manager

SUBJECT: NEW REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMMERCIAL
HARVEST OF KELP AND OTHER MARINE ALGAE

Dear Ms. Palma,

At the February 16, 2022 meeting, the Fish and Game Commission adopted amendments to the commercial kelp and other marine algae harvest regulations, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Sections 165 and 165.5, and Appendix A, and addition of Section 705.1. The amendments are summarized below and are **expected to go into effect on July 1, 2022**. For more background and information, please refer to the Fish and Game Commission website at <https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/2021-New-and-Proposed#165>.

Temporary amended regulations that will expire three years from the effective date include:

- No commercial bull kelp harvest in Sonoma and Mendocino counties, regardless of use
- An annual bull kelp harvest limit of 8,000 pounds wet weight in Humboldt and Del Norte counties combined. Per existing regulation, harvest is only allowed for use as edible seaweed for human consumption only.
- Weekly harvest reporting in Humboldt and Del Norte counties by email in addition to required monthly reporting on the Commercial Edible Seaweed/Agarweed Aquatic Plant Harvester's Monthly Report DFW 113A (NEW 01/06/22)
 - Weekly reports must be submitted by email to kelp@wildlife.ca.gov by 5:00 p.m. on each Monday for the Sunday through Saturday of the preceding week. The email must include the business name, business contact name, harvester license number, amount of harvest in pounds by county in which harvest occurred, and time period of harvest to include the month, specific calendar days of harvest, and year.
 - Weekly harvest reporting by email is required for the duration of the license even if no harvest occurred unless the permit holder notifies the California Department of Fish and Wildlife by email at kelp@wildlife.ca.gov that bull kelp will not be harvested within a specified time frame or will no longer occur for the remainder of the license year.
- Closure of three lease only administrative kelp beds, 308, 309, and 312, in Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties

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Additional regulations pertaining to all commercial harvest of marine algae that do not have a 3 year sunset date were also adopted. The following is a summary of the amendments:

- The harvesting license, 2022 Kelp Harvesting License and Drying Application DFW 658 (REV. 01/06/22), includes a drying option for those who dry their harvest
- Monthly harvest reports require reporting the number of individuals harvesting for the business during the reporting period and central latitude/longitude coordinates of bull kelp harvest locations
 - A single double-sided form, the Commercial Kelp Harvester's Monthly Report DFW 113 (REV. 01/06/22), requires separating reporting weights for bull and giant kelp harvest
 - The Commercial Edible Seaweed/Agarweed Aquatic Plant Harvester's Monthly Report DFW 113A (REV. 01/06/22) was introduced and revised
- Any inadvertent excess of bull kelp harvested in Humboldt and Del Norte counties requires the use of the Release of Property form (NEW 11/01/21)

All commercial harvesters should familiarize themselves with the amended regulations and forms prior to their effective date. Once the regulations are effective, all harvest must be reported on the revised monthly harvest forms.

If you have any questions regarding the amended regulations, please contact the Department of Fish and Wildlife at kelp@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Craig Shuman, D. Env.
Marine Regional Manager

cc: Eric Kord, Assistant Chief
Law Enforcement Division

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