



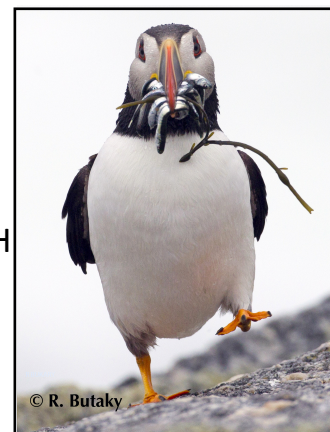
STATUS REPORT ON THE ROCKWEED HARVEST ISSUE

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1. BACKGROUND:

- [Letters from 13 groups/agencies](#) concerned about rockweed protection
- [Article](#) (by RH Seeley and W. Schlesinger) on rockweed harvest impacts/sustainability

2. LEGAL ISSUE: who owns the rockweed?

- Conservation Law Foundation [letter](#): ownership needs to be clarified by court
- See King, 2009 [white paper](#)
- See Maine Attorney General office's [opinions](#)

3. MANAGEMENT ISSUE: what is the state doing to manage the harvest and protect coastal habitat?

- Maine [Rockweed Management Plan](#), finished in Jan. 2014, but without the conservation (no-cut) areas set aside.
- Maine Rockweed [Conservation Working Group](#) has been meeting this year to designate no-cut areas. Listen to [meeting recordings](#).
- **Where does it stand now?** NO-CUT areas have been proposed for [shorebird habitat](#) (scroll down the linked page) and [seal pupping ledges](#).
- **STILL TO DO:** Designate NO-CUT areas for conservation lands, fish conservation areas, invertebrates.

4. LEGISLATIVE/ MUNICIPAL ISSUES: Can towns prohibit rockweed harvesting?

- [LD 1143](#), sponsored by Rep. Tuell (E. Machias), proposes to allow towns to prohibit rockweed harvesting if a town by referendum votes to do that.

[AN ACT TO PROMOTE PROTECTION OF INTERTIDAL ROCKWEED HABITAT](#)

5. ACTION: What can groups, towns, counties, communities, conservation groups and individuals do to promote protection of rockweed habitat (essential for supporting local fisheries and wildlife, and the jobs and incomes that come from local fisheries and wildlife)?

Everyone: Keep informed.

- **JOIN** the Rockweed Coalition and receive the Rockweed Newsletter, which comes out about once a month with updates.
 - Facebook: [Save Our Seaweed](#)
 - Twitter: @MarineConservME
 - Website: www.saveourseaweed.org
 - Email: saveourseaweed@gmail.com
- **ATTEND** the Rockweed Working Group meetings. Next meeting is June 4, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the DOT Conference Room Building, 219 Hogan Road, Bangor, Maine.

County and municipal officials:

- **CONTACT** Rep. Tuell and express support for [LD 1143](#): Will.Tuell@legislature.maine.gov
- **REVIEW** the maps of proposed closures for your area: ***are the important conservation areas for YOUR town being proposed for protection?*** If not, attend working group meetings to take part in the discussion of what will be protected in YOUR town.
[SHOREBIRD MAPS by town](#)
[SHOREBIRD CLOSURE AREAS](#), by coastal region of Maine

[SEAL LEDGE MAPS](#)

Landowners:

- **JOIN** the Rockweed Registry, a list of landowners who do not allow rockweed harvest on their lands. [Learn more](#)
- **REQUEST** a form: saveourseaweed@gmail.com

Land trusts and conservation groups:

- **REVIEW** the maps (see above) of proposed closures for your area: are conservation lands in your area being proposed for protection? If not,
- **ATTEND** working group meetings (see above) to take part in the discussion of areas that will or will not be protected.