



This Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct applies to Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the Southern IFCA District. The CoC has been adapted from the Natural England CoC for seaweed harvesting (which was developed in conjunction with the Crown Estate, Cornwall and Devon & Severn IFCA, the National Trust and Cornwall Wildlife Trust) to include reference to relevant features of the District's National Site Network Sites.



1	Ensure you obtain any relevant permissions before undertaking gathering activities, including landowner permission. Natural England should be consulted before harvesting seaweed in a protected site in England.
2	Harvest seaweed only by hand – mechanical methods should not be used. Cut fronds (leaves) well above the point of growth (e.g. the meristem for kelps) and always leave the holdfast attached.
3	Do not use vehicles on the foreshore.
4	Avoid disturbing sea birds by keeping an appropriate distance away.
5	Avoid or minimise trampling on non-target organisms and avoid taking 'bycatch' such as stalked jellyfish, Peacocks Tail, Pink Sea Fan and Seahorses.
6	Collect less than one third of an individual plant to allow for regrowth.
7	Take care to replace any rocks in the position you found them.
8	Harvest sparsely, taking only a small percentage of standing stock.*
9	Rotate harvesting areas to allow ample time for recovery. Harvested areas should be left for up to several years, depending on the species, before harvesting again.*

10	Harvest seaweeds during the active growth season to allow for quicker recovery.*
11	Harvest seaweeds after reproduction has occurred if possible and ensure a substantial proportion of mature plants remain.*
12	Take extra care when harvesting invasive non-native seaweeds to ensure that seaweeds or spores are not transferred to other areas. Follow 'Check, Clean, Dry' biosecurity principles, checking, cleaning and drying all equipment and clothing when moving between sites to ensure that invasive species, pests and diseases are not spread to new areas. ** (https://www.nonnativespecies.org/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry/). *
13	Do not collect drift seaweed from the entire length of strandlines – harvest sparsely as this constitutes an important habitat.
14	Keep records of volumes & weights of each species of seaweed harvested, along with date and location.
15	Limit harvesting in erosion prone coastal areas (i.e. dunes) where kelp forests dissipate wave energy.
16	Please be aware that foreshores can be hazardous. Do not put yourself at risk of injury by collecting seaweed in adverse conditions and be aware of tides.

*Consult Natural England for further information/ advice

** For information on how to identify non-native seaweeds, please see the GBNNS website: www.nonnativespecies.org.