

WAC 352-32-350 Seaweed harvest. (1) For the purposes of this section, seaweed is defined as all species of marine algae and flowering sea grasses.

(2) Pursuant to RCW 79A.05.165(1), all state park areas are closed to the harvest of seaweed except Fort Ebey, Fort Flagler and Fort Worden state parks which are open to the noncommercial harvest of seaweed in accordance with RCW 79.96.210 from April 16 - May 15 each year. Seaweed harvesting in state park areas is limited to posted park hours.

(3) Seaweed shall be harvested using the following techniques: The leaves of bull kelp (*Nereocystis*) will be cut no closer than twenty-four inches (61 cm) above the bulb, and short stemmed kelps such as sugar wrack (*Laminaria*) and wing kelp (*Alaria*) are to be cut no closer than twelve inches (30 cm) above the anchor point. Cutting will be done using a knife or similar instrument, leaving the anchor point in place at all times. No tearing of the plants from the substrate or trimming is allowed, and rakes, tined forks, or similar tools are prohibited. The limit weight is ten pounds wet weight (fresh-picked before cleaning) per person per day, and drying or partial drying is prohibited prior to weighing. Each harvester must use a scale to determine when the harvest weight limit has been reached, and use their own container. Multiple limits may not be combined in the same container.

(4) The director or designee may take immediate action to reduce harvest levels where there is evidence of environmental damage. Such state park areas shall post changes in the daily harvest limits to inform the public of the reduced harvest levels.

(5) No person shall harvest or possess any seaweed within a state park area closed to harvest pursuant to subsection (2) or (4) of this section, except as necessary for scientific research authorized in writing by the environmental program manager at state parks.

(6) Any violation of this section is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 79A.05 RCW. WSR 07-03-121, § 352-32-350, filed 1/22/07, effective 2/22/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 79A.05.030, 79A.05.035, 79A.05.055, and 79A.05.070. WSR 05-01-069, § 352-32-350, filed 12/9/04, effective 1/9/05.]