

# Macroalgae in the Netherlands

## Licensing and Planning

The approach of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) involves dividing marine areas into sectoral zones. The Plan was developed by collaboration between several ministries under the coordination of the Interdepartmental Directors' Consultative Committee North Sea (*Interdepartementaal Directeurenoverleg Noordzee* (IDON)).

Areas within 1 km of the Dutch coast are subject to normal land use planning under the competent municipal authority. The MSP extends from this coastal area out to the limit of Dutch EEZ territorial waters. Specific zones are reserved for wind farms and energy production, shipping, gravel extraction and nature conservation (for example, Natura 2000 areas). The plan regulates the use of activities in these zones, which in turn are licensed through a permit system. Offshore algal production would be restricted by the requirements of MSP, although the exact permitting and planning arrangements may vary according to the project type.

The regional contacts are detailed here:

| Main implementing legislation | Primary implementing agency   | Permit types |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------|
| National Water Act 2009       | IDON<br><a href="http://www.noordzeeloket.nl/ruimtelijk-beheer/interdepartementaal/">http://www.noordzeeloket.nl/ruimtelijk-beheer/interdepartementaal/</a> | MSP permit   |

### Key Points to consider:

1. What is the size of the planned operation: marine and terrestrial footprint?
2. What services exist already on the site? Is this a new operation or change of use?
3. Is the site located environmentally sensitive areas / sites of special scientific interest?
4. What species of macroalgae will be grown in relation to what is already present in the ecosystem? Or how much of native seaweed will be harvested?
5. What are the offshore and onshore requirements?
6. Are any discharges produced by the site?
7. Is the site likely to cause nuisance - e.g. noise above levels of agricultural machinery / odour / light above dense street lighting?

**First step:**  
- Contact IDON

## Regulatory Issues

Regulatory issues are very much dependent on end use of biomass. Please consult the relevant factsheet for further information.

Factsheet #15. Algae as Feedstock for Energy Generation - European fuel quality and other bioenergy legislation are explained

Factsheet #16. Algae as Feedstock for Chemicals - this covers REACH and other pertinent legislation

Factsheet #17. Algae as Feedstock for Food or Feed - FEMAS and other regulations for entering the food chain are described in more detail.

### Key Points to consider:

1. What inputs have gone into the production process: are any classified as waste?
2. What is the target end use of the algal biomass?
3. What further processing steps are required?