



Macroalgae in the UK

Licensing and Permitting

Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009, activities listed in Part 4, Chapter 1 must apply for a license. The nature of any licensing then depends on the specific activity: the wild harvesting of seaweed or commercial aquaculture. The size and location of site, e.g. number of longlines. Or proximity to a conservation area such as Natura 2000 site will determine if an environmental impact assessment is required.

The regional contacts are detailed here:

	Licensing authority England	Licensing authority Wales	Licensing authority Scotland	Licensing authority Northern Ireland
Wild Harvesting	Marine Management Organisation (MMO) https://www.qov.uk/govern ment/organisations/marine -management-organisation	Welsh Assembly/Countryside Council for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topic s/environmentcountrysid e/fisheries/marine/?lang =en	Scottish Government - Marine Scotland/Scottish Natural Heritage http://www.snh.gov.uk/pro tecting-scotlands- nature/species-licensing/	Department of Environment, Marine Division http://www.doeni.gov. uk/index/protect the environment/natural environment/marine and coast.htm
Commercial aquaculture	Marine Management Organisation (MMO) https://www.gov.uk/now- marine-licensing-works https://www.gov.uk/govern ment/organisations/marine -management-organisation	Welsh Assembly Marine Consents Unit (MCU) http://naturairesourcesw ales.gov.uk/marine/?lang =en	Marine Scotland http://www.scotland.gov.u k/Topics/marine/Licensing	Department of Environment, Marine Division http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/matural_environment/marine_and_coast.htm

Planning

Marine licensing is increasingly being integrated with marine spatial planning. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 implements the EU MSFD by dividing the UK marine environment into ten regions, each with its own plan development process. While currently government Marine Policy Statements provide the planning framework for assessing licensing of projects, the marine plans will eventually form the basis of any licensing procedures. One key issue for deciding licensing of marine activities such as aquaculture/algal production will undoubtedly be proximity to protected areas, in particular Marine Protected Areas.

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?
 5. What are the offshore and onshore requirements?

First step:

- Contact local Environment Agency or Marine Licensing Authority

Key Points to consider:

- 1. What size is the facility?
- 2. Is the site located close to dwellings / environmentally sensitive areas / sites of special scientific interest?
 3. Are any discharges produced by the site?
 4. What services exist
- already on the site?

 5. Is the site likely to cause nuisance e.g. noise above levels of agricultural machinery / odour / light above dense street lighting?

First step:

- Contact Local Marine Planning Organisation

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?