

7 Question Areas for Maine's Seaweed Industry

1. **For harvesters:** You claim to manage the area(s) where you harvest, but can't anyone with a license harvest one of "your" areas at any time? And who monitors this to insure appropriate biomass is left?
2. **For rake-based harvesting companies, e.g. Acadian Seaplants:** How are you able insure that the necessary amount of seaweed remains when your harvest is done by dipping a bladed rake into the ocean at a rapid pace?
3. **For the Maine Seaweed Council (MSC) and the Department of Marine Resources (DMR):** Is there any independent regulator who regularly visits and monitors harvesting sites? How are "best practices" enforced?
4. **For DMR:** Do you have the resources (financial and people) required to regulate harvesters, especially as these numbers grow annually? Aren't your resources devoted entirely to the fisheries that have greater monetary value than seaweed currently does?
5. **For the aquaculture seaweed companies:** Why do several of you promote your aquacultured product as the answer to sustainability concerns, yet supplement with wild harvest if your product sales demand it?
6. **For the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA):** As a soil-based organization, what do you know about ocean based organics? Did industry or science drive your certification process? Do you know enough about aquaculture to certify it? Or seaweed at all for that matter? Who monitors your clients?
7. **For the consumer (you, your friends and your family):** What self-regulated industries that deal in natural resources have created truly sustainable systems for themselves and by themselves?