

Macroalgae in France (Brittany)

Licensing and Permitting

The legal framework for aquaculture, including seaweed production, is set by national legislation, with regulations divided into land based and marine activities. Although national measures apply uniformly across France, a number of local Departmental regulations apply in Brittany.

Wild Harvest: An authorisation to harvest algae from the shoreline must be sought from the relevant Department and regional fishing organisation for sea fishing. In Brittany, it is the DDTM in conjunction with the Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Elvages Marins that authorises the harvesting of algae from the shore. Specific Orders governing 'foot gathering' are also issued by the different local authorities in Brittany.

Longline Cultivation: Concessions for such production are issued by the local Direction Départementale des Territoires et de la Mer (DDTM). As specified above, in Brittany licensed activities are also governed by specific Deliberations and Orders issued by local authorities. Applications for a concession are made under Decree No. 83-228, as amended. Applicants must include a plan of any installation, details of the cultivated/harvested species, the harvesting period and any production process.

The contacts are provided here:

	Licensing authority / contact
Wild Harvesting	Directions Départementale des Territoires et de la Mer http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Les-DDTM-directions.12618.html Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Elvages Marins - http://www.bretagne-peches.org/
Commercial aquaculture	Directions Départementale des Territoires et de la Mer http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Les-DDTM-directions.12618.html

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 DDTM and/or CRPM

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:

- Consult DDTM

Planning

Maritime resources in France are subject to the concept of maritime public domain (DPM) whereby the beach, foreshore and sea are governed by the state. National planning law aims to regulate coastal development to protect it from urbanisation and allow free access to the public. An activity can only be authorised in these areas after a study of the potential impacts on both the natural environment and human activities is conducted - other actors, such as tourists, boat owners and fisherman, also have access to coastal resources under DPM. A set of measures are incorporated into the legislation relating to the protection and management of certain coastal and inland waters of the Code de l'Urbanisme..

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?