

***Sargassum* Harvesting in Florida Permitting Information**

In preparation for permitting and activity inquiries, have the following information ready:

Location	Amount of <i>Sargassum</i> to be removed
Condition of beach	Location of beach access
Potential for sea turtle nesting	Date and time of cleanup activities
Harvesting equipment specifications	

Below, the permitting process is divided into the categories of “Land”, “State Waters”, and “Federal Waters.” Agencies split and share jurisdictions across each of the three levels, and some hierarchies (federal, state, etc.) will be required to receive permissions and permits from multiple agencies within.

For land-based operations in Florida, it is best practice to begin by contacting FDEP to establish communication channels and hierarchy of permits that are required for desired activities.

For marine operations in Florida, it is best practice to begin by contacting FWC to establish the need for a commercial saltwater products license (commercial practices) or a special activity license (SAL; for research, education, exhibition, or aquaculture).

Land Harvest:

- **US Fish and Wildlife**
 - Reason:
 - Endangered Species Act Section 10 (a)(1)(b) Permitting
 - Sea turtle nesting
 - To be Received:
 - Incidental harassment authorization or letter of authorization. Level B harassment if harassment cannot be avoided—pursuit, torment, annoyance.
 - [Permit Application](#)
 - Point of Contact:
 - USFWS Field Offices
 - [Locations and Contact Info](#)
- **Florida Department of Environmental Protection**
 - Reason:
 - Mechanical removal of *Sargassum* is a permit regulated process through the Coastal Construction Control Line CCL
 - Hand tools are omitted from requiring a permit
 - To Be Received:
 - Beach clearing permit in coordination with FWC (see FWC below)
 - Instructions for county and city specific permitting
 - Point of Contact for Individuals ([Source](#)):

- 850-245-2118
 - Point of Contact for Local Governments ([Source](#)):
 - CCCL Program: www.FloridaDEP.gov/CCCL
 - cccl@floridadep.gov or 850-245-8570
 - Beach Field Services Administrator: Jason Spanier
 - jason.spanier@floridadep.gov or 850-510-5619
 - Beach Field Inspectors:
 - <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coastal-construction-control-line/content/cccl-field-representatives-contact-list>
 - CCCL Program Administrator: Doug Aarons
 - Douglas.Aarons@FloridaDEP.gov or 850-245-7672
 - CCCL Permit Managers:
 - <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coastal-construction-control-line/content/cccl-permit-managers>
 - RCP/Beaches Programs:
 - <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/beaches> or 850-245-2094 (RCP main line)
- **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**
 - Reason:
 - Sea Turtle and Shorebird Monitoring.
 - Required March 1 through October 31 from Brevard through Broward counties and May 1 through October 31 in other Atlantic Coast counties.
 - To Be Received:
 - Consultation by FWC staff on cleanup activities
 - No permits
 - Point of Contact:
 - marineturtle@myfwc.com or 850-922-4330
- **County and City**
 - Reason:
 - Municipalities have their own operational regulations
 - To Be Received:
 - Operations permit
 - Point of Contact:
 - Coordinated on a location-by-location basis through FDEP (see FDEP section above)
- **National and State Parks**
 - Reason:
 - Park systems have specific permitting and regulations
 - To Be Received:
 - Special Use Permits (SUP) and Special Activity License (SAL)
 - Point of Contact:
 - See park system and agency website for general contact information

State Waters Harvest (< 3 miles):

- **National Marine Fisheries Service:**
 - Reason:
 - Endangered Species Act Section 10
 - All ESA listed species (e.g., sea turtles)
 - Marine Mammal Protection Act
 - Essential Fish Habitat designation for *Sargassum* top 33 ft (10 m) of water column bounded by the Gulf Stream
[76 FR 82183 CE-BA 2](#) via ASMFC and NOAA circa 2012
 - To Be Received:
 - ESA Consultation
 - Incidental harassment authorization or letter of authorization.
Level B harassment if harassment cannot be avoided—pursuit, torment, annoyance.
 - Point of Contact:
 - ESA Section 7 Consultation Questions:
 - nmfs.ser.esa.consultations@noaa.gov
 - [More information link](#)
 - [ESA Section 10 Incidental Take Permit questions:](#)
 - pr.esa.incidentaltakepermits@noaa.gov
 - [More information link](#)
- **US Army Corp of Engineers**
 - Reason:
 - Installation of *Sargassum* booms, barriers, or other temporary or permanent structures (not removal vessels), dredging
 - Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) authority of navigable waters from mean high tide to end of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) at 200 nautical miles
 - To be Received:
 - RHA Section 10 permit
 - Possibly Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404
 - Point of Contact:
 - [Jacksonville District Regulatory Office](#)
 - 904-232-1177
 - SAJ-RD@usace.army.mil
- **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**
 - Reason:
 - Greater than 100 lbs removed from canals and nearshore waters.
Less than 100 lbs, only a recreational saltwater license is required.
 - To be Received:
 - A commercial saltwater products license
 - Special Activity License (SAL)
 - Point of Contact:

- Commercial Industries:
 - [Information Link](#)
 - Research Applications:
 - sal@myfwc.com or 850-0487-0554
- **National and State Parks**
 - Reason:
 - Park systems have specific permitting and regulations
 - To Be Received:
 - Special Use Permits (SUP) and Special Activity License (SAL)
 - Point of Contact:
 - See park system and agency website for general contact information

Federal Waters Harvest:

- **National Marine Fisheries Service:**
 - Reason:
 - Endangered Species Act Section 10
 - All ESA listed species (e.g., sea turtles) Marine Mammal Protection Act
 - Essential Fish Habitat designation for *Sargassum* top 33 ft (10 m) of water column bounded by the Gulf Stream
[76 FR 82183 CE-BA 2](#) via ASMFC and NOAA circa 2012
 - To Be Received:
 - ESA Consultation
 - Incidental harassment authorization or letter of authorization.
Level B harassment if harassment cannot be avoided—pursuit, torment, annoyance.
 - Point of Contact:
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