§6803. Seaweed permit

1. Permit required. Except as provided in subsections 1-A and 2, an individual may not harvest, possess, ship, transport or sell seaweed without a current:

A. Resident seaweed permit; or [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §23 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. Nonresident seaweed permit. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §23 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[PL 2013, c. 282, §7 (AMD).]

1-A. Supplemental permit. An employee or immediate relation of a seaweed permit holder may harvest, possess or transport seaweed for commercial purposes with a current:

A. Resident supplemental seaweed permit; or [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §24 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. Nonresident supplemental seaweed permit. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §24 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §24 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

2. Exceptions. The following are not required to have a permit:

A. [PL 2013, c. 282, §8 (RP).]

B. [PL 2013, c. 282, §8 (RP).]

C. An individual who harvests, possesses, ships or transports no more than 50 pounds of seaweed a day for noncommercial purposes; [PL 2013, c. 282, §9 (AMD).]

D. Charitable or municipal organizations that harvest, possess, ship or transport seaweed for noncommercial use by that organization; or [PL 1989, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

E. Anyone harvesting, possessing, shipping or transporting seaweed that has detached naturally and is dead. [PL 2023, c. 563, §6 (AMD).]

[PL 2023, c. 563, §6 (AMD).]

3. Permit fees. The fees for seaweed permits are as follows:

A. For a resident seaweed permit, $8; [PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. EEEEE, §21 (RPR).]

B. For a nonresident seaweed permit, $30; [PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. EEEEE, §21 (RPR).]

C. For a resident supplemental seaweed permit, $4; and [PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. EEEEE, §21 (RPR).]

D. For a nonresident supplemental seaweed permit, $8. [PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. EEEEE, §21 (RPR).]

[PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. EEEEE, §21 (RPR).]

4. Surcharge fees. In addition to the permit fees established in subsection 3, the commissioner shall assess a surcharge on each permit issued under this section as follows, which must be deposited in the Seaweed Management Fund established in section 6806:

A. Fifty dollars for a resident seaweed permit; [PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. G, §30 (NEW).]

B. Two hundred dollars for a nonresident seaweed permit; [PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. G, §30 (NEW).]

C. Twenty-five dollars for a resident supplemental seaweed permit; and [PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. G, §30 (NEW).]

D. Fifty dollars for a nonresident supplemental seaweed permit. [PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. G, §30 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. EEEEE, §22 (AMD).]

5. Violation. An individual who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $500 may be adjudged.
[PL 2013, c. 282, §10 (AMD).]

6. Educational course. The commissioner, as the commissioner determines appropriate, may require an individual to complete an educational course prior to the issuance or renewal of a seaweed permit under this section. An educational course required under this subsection may be provided by the department or by any public or private sector association or organization authorized by the commissioner. If an educational course requirement under this subsection applies only to certain species of seaweed, the commissioner may require an endorsement on the seaweed permit for those species, which must be made available at no charge.
[PL 2025, c. 569, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 523, §2 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 528, §RRR (AFF). PL 1991, c. 528, §T13 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 591, §T13 (AMD). RR 1999, c. 1, §17 (COR). PL 1999, c. 501, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 421, §B50 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 421, §C1 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 452, §§F23,24 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. G, §§29, 30 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 282, §§7-10 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. EEEEE, §§21, 22 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 563, §6 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 569, §1 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through October 1, 2026. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.