Seaweeds are important components of marine ecosystems and form the foundation of many marine food webs. Fishes, birds, snails, crabs, and marine mammals use kelp beds for refuge, feeding, spawning and nursery grounds. Kelp beds benefit nearshore areas by trapping sediment. They also disperse wave energy and turbulence to protect shorelines from erosion. Preserving productive kelp beds by sustainable harvest practices assures that seaweed will grow back for future harvests and continue to nourish sea life.

GET HARVESTING INFORMATION ONLINE
bit.ly/seaweedharvest

Many county and city parks have additional rules. Check with your county’s health department for current closures.

DO NOT harvest seaweed from restricted beaches. Seaweed contaminated with sewage or naturally occurring bacteria, viruses or toxic chemicals may present health risks. Restricted beaches may include sewage outfall areas, hazardous waste sites, logging facilities, manufacturing facilities and industrial sites. Department of Health identifies restricted or polluted beaches to avoid.

doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety.htm

Shellfish Program: 360-236-3330
Marine Toxics Hotline: 1-800-562-5632

MAKE SURE SEAWEED IS SAFE FOR EATING
For more information on sustainable harvesting, contact the Department of Natural Resources’ Aquatic Resources Division in Olympia at 360-902-1100

dnr.wa.gov/seaweed