

Growth rates of knotted wrack, *Ascophyllum nodosum*, under different salinities in Penobscot Bay, Maine in 2004 and 2005

Ascophyllum nodosum is a commonly harvested alga found in the North Atlantic. The purpose of this research was to determine whether varying salinity in an estuarine system, such as Penobscot Bay, Maine, affects the growth rate. There were three sites selected in a high salinity area and three in a low salinity area. The growth rates for 2004 and 2005 were measured and compared with average salinity and temperature data. Only one location showed a significant difference in growth rates between the years. Overall, it appears that the salinity may not have a significant influence on the growth rates of *A. nodosum*. As a result, where the alga can be harvested in an estuarine environment is not impacted by the salinity gradient.

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