UIST ASCO INCREASES RATE PAID TO SEAWEED HARVESTERS

JUNE 12, 2018. NORTH UIST, SCOTLAND. Uist Asco, a company owned by the Canadian firm, Acadian Seaplants Limited (ASL), is pleased to announce that, effective immediately, the rate it pays to Harvesters for the seaweed they harvest and sell to the company has increased.

“Since acquiring Uist Asco, Acadian Seaplants has invested in the local seaweed processing facility to ensure the manufacturing equipment could accommodate the volume of Knotted Wrack local Harvesters can potentially sell to the production facility for processing into value-added products,” said JP Brien, Project Manager for Uist Asco.

While Uist Asco underwent its refit, the company held two public information sessions to attract potential Harvesters and followed up with several harvest training sessions to ensure the Harvesters conduct a safe and sustainable harvest. Uist Asco’s Resource Scientist, Malcolm Gibson, has been conducting biomass assessments, based on scientific methods used by Acadian Seaplants, to create plans for the sustainable harvest of North Uist’s Knotted Wrack resource.
“We are now ready to put our seaweed processing equipment to the test and are looking to add additional Harвестers so we can increase the volume of Knotted Wrack going through the plant,” adds Brien.

To help Uist Asco attract more Harvesters to the local harvest, it conducted research on local remuneration rates and subsequently increased the rate it pays from £28 to £32 per metric tonne and introduced a new bonus structure based on volumes harvested.

“It should be mentioned that no seaweed harvesting experience is necessary; we will provide all training to ensure the Harvester is successful and his or her earning potential is maximized,” he said.

Uist Asco recognizes that seaweed harvesting is a time-honoured tradition on the Islands and the company is honoured to play a part in sustaining its noble history.

**Background**

**Uist Asco** specializes in managing the harvesting and processing of *Ascophyllum nodosum* into value-added products for global markets and has been operating for five years.
Acadian Seaplants Limited is globally recognized for its sustainable resource management, research, product and processing innovations and community engagement in the areas where its employees work and live. Acadian Seaplants Limited, based in Nova Scotia, Canada, is a global, family-run, bio-tech company and the largest independent manufacturer of marine plant products of its type in the world. It is engaged primarily in the sustainable harvesting of wild seaweeds, in the development of technologies to process these renewable resources into value-added finished products and in the cultivation and processing of unique seaweeds, from the world’s largest land-based, commercial seaweed cultivation system.

The company produces products for global food and agricultural industries. Its value-added products are sold into health, nutraceutical, pharmaceutical, food, brewery and cosmetic markets; its agricultural business includes specialized animal feeds and crop biostimulants and nutritional products. Ninety-five percent of its products are exported to over 80 countries.

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