Harvesting Impacts

on Macrocystis integrifolia :

A Preliminary Study

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Ministry of Environment PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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bу

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Fisheries Development Report No 12

Marine Resources Branch Ministry of Environment Province of British Columbia

> January, 1980 Reprinted March, 1981

ABSTRACT

The impact of harvesting on growth of the giant kelp, Macrocystis integrifolia Bory, was studied in a large, medium density kelp bed near Masset, B. C., in the Queen Charlotte Islands. Standard growth rates, G (growth in cm/day of a lm frond) for control (unharvested) plants in June were 5 - 6 cm/day for plants at the outer edge of the bed, 4 - 5 in the middle of the bed, and 3 - 4 at the inner edge. During July respective G values were 4.5 - 5.5, 5 - 6, and 4 - 5. At all positions G dropped below 4 during August and September. Harvesting at 1.6 m below mean water level in early June significantly lowered growth rates, however growth rates after harvesting in mid July were not significantly effected and may have been slightly enhanced. Inner bed plants tended to have more blades per length of stipe than outer plants; this parameter was not effected by harvesting. Blade initiation rates were similar throughout the bed (\overline{X} = .28 blades/day from June-September) and were not significantly effected by harvesting. Two methods for the estimation of canopy replenishment time following harvesting are described and compared.

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INTRODUCTION

Macrocystis integrifolia Bory is a large kelp which forms dense beds along portions of the outer coast of British Columbia (Field and Clark, 1978). It has considerable economic potential as a source of algin, as a mineral supplement for humans and livestock, and as a fertilizer base (Druehl, 1972; Whyte and Englar, 1974, 1976, 1978; Whyte et al, 1976). Long term industrial utilization of *Macrocystis* will require that wild stocks regrow and recruit following harvest. Thus, survival of a kelp industry will depend on the development of sound resource management guidelines to ensure conservation of the resource base. Such guidelines must be based on an understanding of how *Macrocystis* grows and reproduces, and how these phenomena are influenced by the natural vagaries of the environment and the added pressure of harvesting by man.

While the basic pattern of frond initiation and growth of Macrocystis have been known for some time (Scagel, 1947), the actual rate of frond growth has been observed infrequently. Scagel's (1947) pioneering study near Port Hardy, B.C. provided the earliest published growth rates for Macrocystis in British Columbia. The only other published records are those of Lobban (1976, 1978a, 1978b) who studied growth and translocation in Barkley Sound, B.C. Growth rates of M. pyrifera in southern California have been reported by North (1968, 1971). Frond growth rates following harvesting have only been reported for M. pyrifera (North, 1968).

Several regions of the Queen Charlotte Islands, in the north coastal waters of British Columbia, have extensive beds of *Macrocystis* having potential economic value (Coon et al, 1979). This report contains the results of a preliminary study of harvesting impact on the regrowth of *Macrocystis* in McIntyre Bay, off the north coast of Graham Island (Figure 1). It provides the first record of *Macrocystis* growth information north of Vancouver Island. Frond growth and blade initiation rates were examined as effected by harvesting, time of harvest, and the position of plants within the bed. A preliminary analysis of canopy replenishment rate is provided as an exercise to illustrate the use of the abovementioned data types as predictive tools for the resource manager.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The beds of *Macrocystis integrifolia* Bory and *Nereocystis luetkeana* (Mertens) Postels and Ruprecht off the north coast of Graham Island constitute one of the larger concentrations (Coon *et al*, in prep.) of readily accessible kelp in the coastal waters of British Columbia. Yet the first commercial interest in the Queen Charlotte kelp resources emerged only in 1967 when Canada Kelp Company Limited applied for harvesting licences for the whole of the Queen Charlotte Islands. Since the Queen Charlottes were not surveyed in the 1946 inventory of B.C. kelp resources (B.C. Research Council, 1947), Canada Kelp conducted its own inventory in August and September, 1967 (Norpac, 1968). Bed areas, densities and total biomass were estimated between the Mazarredo Islands in Virago Sound and the Kliki Damen River just east of the mouth of Skonun River (Figure 1) An estimated total standing crop of 140,630 tonnes (72,849 tonnes of *Nereocystis* and 67,781 of *Macrocystis*) were located in the survey area

In 1968 Canada Kelp completed construction of a drying plant near Masset with the aim of supplying kelp meal to the European and Japanese markets. A 1,000 ton per day capacity harvesting vessel was under construction when the company, through a financial setback, was placed in receivership. In 1972 the complete assets of Canada Kelp were acquired by Kelpac Industries Limited and, in August, 1973, the drying plant first produced kelp meal in a trial run operation (Whyte and Englar, 1974).

In 1973 the Marine Resources Branch and the Industrial Development Division of the Federal Fisheries and Marine Service jointly funded another inventory of kelp stocks to cover the areas previously inventoried (Blakely and Chalmers, 1973). Aerial photography using 70 mm false color infrared film was employed to determine bed areas for each species and ground truth sampling to estimate bed densities (kg/m²). Total standing crop biomass was estimated by multiplying area X density. An estimated total standing crop of 117,235 tonnes (*Nereocystis -* 48,819 tonnes; *Macrocystis* 68,416 tonnes) was found in the survey area.

Kelpac was unable to secure its financial base in time to put the Masset plant into operation for the summer of 1974, but expected to be in full scale operation by June, 1975. This year-long interum period allowed for the initiation of a kelp management research program. The results of this preliminary research form the body of this text. Kelpac's development plan never came to fruition, and, as of 1979, no further harvesting studies have taken place in this region. *Macrocystis* biomass in the Masset area was reassessed in 1976 and 1978 (Coon *et al*, 1979; Coon *et al*, in prep.), using the inventory method developed by Foreman (1975).

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY SITE

The study site was a moderately dense Macrocystis bed located off South Beach in McIntrye Bay $(54^{\circ} .03' N, 132^{\circ} .6' W)$ at the northern end of Graham Island in the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia (Figure 1). The bottom was sandy near shore and changed to firm clay 800 m from the shore. *Macrocystis* grew on boulders scattered throughout this region from approximately 3 m below MWL near shore, to 6 m below MWL at the outer edge of the bed. Mean water level for 1974 was 2.9 m. Tidal range during large tides is 6.0 m; HHW is at 6.0 m above datum and at LLW is at 0.0 m. Temperature and salinity at 0.9 m depth were reported by Giovadi and Hollister (1973) for nearby Langara Island in 1973. Temperature increased from 9.3°C in June to 11.7°C by September, and winter temperatures were 6 - 7° C. Average monthly salinities throughout the year varied by no more than $1^{\circ}/_{\circ\circ}$ from 32 $^{\circ}/_{\circ\circ}$. Mean hours of bright sunshine per month over six years for Sandspit (Figure 1) from June through September was 174, and November through February was 67 (Department of Agriculture, 1972). The study site was exposed to waves and surge during spring and summer; the senior author has observed that the bed is thinned considerably over the winter months.



Figure 1. Location of the *Macrocystis* harvest study site near Masset, Q.C.I., in summer 1974. Bed density information is from Coon $et \ al$, (1979).

DESCRIPTION OF MACROCYSTIS INTEGRIFOLIA

The giant kelp *Macrocystis integrifolia* grows attached to rock substrate only in areas with little seasonal variations in sea water temperature and salinity or in areas where lower salinities occur during winter when water temperatures are low (Druehl, 1978). Druehl's observation that the distribution of *Macrocystis* in Barkley Sound is restricted to moderately wave-exposed areas or areas subjected to appreciable tidal currents (provided solid substrate is available) can, on the basis of the senior author's experience, also be generally applied for the rest of the British Columbia coast.

Macrocystis exhibits a determinate heteromorphic alternation of generations, with a microscopic oogamous gametophytic stage and macroscopic sporophyte stage. Sporophyte plants produce asexual unilocular sporangia in soral patches on specialized basal laminae called sporophylls. Mature sporangia rupture, releasing biflagellate, motile zoospores which, after settling on suitable substrate, lose their flagella and develop into male or female gametophytic branched filaments. Male gametophytes develop antheridia that liberate motile biflagellate sperm. The females extrude a large egg cell which develops into an embryo after fertilization. The zygote undergoes repeated divisions, producing a small stipe and blade. This juvenile sporophyte grows rapidly and ultimately results in the mature sporophyte. Under good illumination in shallow water, about one year is required from zoospore liberation to the development of a mature sporophyte, representing the completed life cycle of *M. pyrifera* (Neushuland Haxo, 1963). We estimate that about the same time period is required for M. integrifolia to complete its life cycle in British Columbia waters.

Details of the morphology and growth of the sporophyte of *M. integrifolia* are provided by Scagel (1947) and Lobban (1978a). The blade of the juvenile sporophyte divides dichotomously to form two identical blades; while still dividing dichotomously, each half begins dividing unilaterally

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Figure 2. Semi-diagrammatic sketch of *Macrocystis integrifolia* Bory.

to produce the first frond initials and the apical scimitar (Figure 2). The apical scimitar continues dividing unilaterally to produce sporophylls (which divide producing many bladelets), blades and stipe. Once produced by this apical meristem, the blades continue to grow in length and width and the stipe continues to elongate. These tissues cease growing by the time the apical meristem has produced 1-2 m of new tissue distally. Blades consist of a flattened lamina and a pneumatocyst, which buoys the frond in the water. Mature laminae are 25-100 cm long and 7-15 cm wide, with irregularly bullate surfaces and a denticulate margin. Mature blades produce most of the photosynthate of the plant and export a portion of this to meristematic sinks at the growing end of the frond and to juvenile fronds and frond initials (Lobban, 1978c). Blades begin to senesce (deteriorate) two to three months after initiation (separation from the apical scimitar). Production of new tissues slows as the frond approaches the surface of the water and ceases at a length of about twice the depth of the holdfast below 0 tide (Lobban, 1976, 1978a).

Each of the frond intitials from the two primary fronds can divide to produce a new frond, each bearing two frond initials at their base; these, in turn, can produce new fronds. Thus, *M. integrifolia* has an indeterminate growth strategy and a series of fronds of various ages occurs on any mature plant. As many as 200 stipes may arise from one holdfast, but the average is in the range of 10 to 20 stipes.

Lobban (1978b) found that about 20 fronds could be potentially produced by one plant during the growing season in Barkley Sound, B.C. However, loss or suppression of growth of frond initials resulted in less than half the maximum number of fronds per plant. The life span of fronds produced during summer was about 6 months, but fronds produced in August could overwinter and complete growth in spring, thus living up to 10 months.

The perennial nature of the *Macrocystis* holdfast, when combined with: (1) the plant's propensity for producing new fronds, (2) the basal location of reproductive tissue, (3) large thallus, and (4) relatively rapid growth, renders *M. integrifolia* particularly attractive to commercial harvesting and, in certain ways, makes easier the task of resource management.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Three zones were delineated within the kelp bed at the study site, with the shallowest (3.6 m. below MWL) at the inner edge of the bed, the middle depth (4.4 m. below MWL) at the center of the bed, and the deepest (5.2 m. below MWL) at the outer edge of the bed (Figure 1). Three stations were located in each of these zones, and each station was randomly assigned one of three harvesting treatments: control (unharvested), early harvest (June 7), or late harvest (July 17). At each station, five plants were randomly chosen and tagged. Fronds of tagged plants at harvest stations were cut at 1.6 m below MWL and all nearby plants were similarly cut to prevent shading. Immediately following this cutting, eight fronds with intact apical scimitars (*i.e.* those fronds lesser in length than the cutting height above the seabed) were labelled on each of five plants at each of the harvest stations, for an initial sample size of forty fronds. Eight fronds of similar length were labelled on each of five plants at the control stations. All tagged fronds were of similar size (means for each station were between 40 and 105 cm. long). Initially, and at subsequent intervals of 8 - 33 days (Table 1), lengths of tagged fronds were measured by SCUBA divers using a cloth measuring tape. Measurements were made from the frond base at the holdfast to the tip of the apical scimitar. It was estimated that frond lengths greater than 50 cm. were measured within \pm 10cm., and those less than 50 cm. within \pm 5 cm. The number of laminae on each frond were counted and sporophyll presence or absence and condition were noted. Five cut fronds on each harvest plant were also tagged and subsequent condition noted. Additional short fronds were tagged and measured at the control and early harvest stations on July 26.

Frond growth rate and percent daily elongation were calculated for each frond at each growth period. Growth rate was calculated as:

 $GR = (L_t - L_o) / t$ where L_o was the length of the frond at the beginning of the growth period and L_t was the length at the end of the period, and t was the duration of

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the period in days. Following North's (1971) assumption that over short time periods growth rate is a geometric relation, percent daily elongation was calculated as:

$$E = (L_t/L_0^{-1/t} - 1)$$
 (North, 197

For each growth period the percent daily elongation of fronds was regressed on the common logarithm of the average length of fronds between two consecutive measurements. The standard growth rate (G), the percent daily elongation of a 1 m frond (North, 1971), was then calculated. Fronds having a negative growth rate during any of the growth periods, or that essentially did not grow after tagging, were eliminated from all calculations since North (1971) states that these fronds would cause considerable distortion in regressions. No more than 11% of the fronds were thus eliminated at any station during any growth period. Since slow-growing fronds are eliminated from calculations, G is representative only of the actively growing, not the total, population of fronds. Standard growth rate is a comparative index of growth. It is used because the growth rate of fronds is related to frond length (Lobban 1978a), a factor which makes comparison of growth over time and space very complex. G affords us a singular term which can be used to represent the growth of a whole population of fronds.

Analyses of variance were employed to determine the significance of effects of harvesting, station location or depth of the kelp bed, and initial length of frond (less than or equal to 50 cm, and greater than 50 cm in length) on actual growth rates of fronds (not G). Only fronds living through the entire period covered by the analyses were used and slow-growing fronds were not eliminated. In this report the term "significant" refers to a probability of 0.05 and "highly significant" to a 0.01 probability of rejecting a true null hypothesis.

tation	Stat	ion Description			2	3 1 4	0	
7 1 4	Inner	Early Control * Early Harvest * Late Harvest	June 11 June 8	July 13 July 10 July 17	July 25 July 22 July 28	August 16 August 14 August 18	August 26 August 22 August 28	Sept. 13 Sept. 9 Sept. 16
8 7 2	əſbbiM	Early Control Early Harvest Late Harvest	June 12 June 9	July 15 July 12 July 19	July 26 July 23 July 28	August 16 August 14 August 18	August 26 August 22 August 28	Sept. 13 Sept. 9 Sept. 16
9 ~ 6	netuO	Early Control * Early Harvest * Late Harvest	June 13 June 10	July 16 July 11 July 18	July 27 July 24 July 29	August 17 August 15 August 19	August 27 August 23 August 29	Sept. 16 Sept. 11 Sept. 15

* Shorter fronds of these plants were tagged at the beginning of the 3rd growth period. Newly tagged fronds of the control plants acted as controls for the late harvest plants.

Sept. 16

Sampling dates, growth periods and station descriptions for the Macrocystis harvest study, carried out near Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands, in 1974. Table 1.

Growth Periods

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Frond Growth

A complete tabulation of frond length and blade number data for each sampling period is provided in Appendix I. All analyses reported herein are based on this data. Regression parameters of percent daily elongation versus mean frond length for all stations and calculated standard growth rates (G) are given in Appendix II.

G values for control plants in June were 5-6 cm/day for outer, 4-5 cm/day for mid-position, and 3-4 cm/day for inner stations (Figure 3). During July respective G values were 4.5-5.5, 5-6, and 4-5cm/day. In August G fell below 4 at all positions but when calculated using the shorter fronds tagged on July 26, this decline in growth rate was not as marked.

Lobban (1976, 1978a, 1978b) found that G values of Macrocystis integrifolia in Barkley Sound, B.C. rose from 3.9 in early May to 4.3 cm/day by mid-June and fell to 1.1 cm/day from August through October. He suggested that the sharp decline in G during August 1975, may have resulted from heavy epiphytism of the lower laminae of longer fronds by the hydroid Obelia and the encrusting bryozoan Membranipora. Membranipora has been found to decrease the light available to the laminae of M. purifera (Wing and Clendenning, 1971). G values calculated from the shorter fronds tagged at the beginning of the third growth period were higher possibly due to reduced epiphytism. Roland (1980) has shown that Macrocystis laminae in Barkley Sound become heavily epiphytised by Obelia and Membranipora only when mature and at a distance of 1.5 m or more from the apical meristem. At least from June through August, plants in the Queen Charlotte Islands appeared to grow faster than more southern Barkley Sound plants, this is possibly due to the increased day length experienced by these more northerly plants during the summer. M. integrifolia grows slow



0

JUN

JUL

AUG

Middle

SEP

r

OWE

0

JUN

JUL

Inner

AUG SEP

Figure 3. Standard growth rates (G) of fronds at inner, middle and outer control and early harvest stations throughout the entire study. Dashed lines indicate new fronds tagged about July 26. Vertical bars denote 95% confidence intervals about the mean.

0

JUN

JUL

Outer

AUG

SEP

than *M. pyrifera* which, in southern California, has G values averaging approximately 7 cm/day over the entire year (North, 1971).

The effect of station depth or position on growth rates was highly significant following the first harvest (Table 2), but not after the second harvest (Table 3). Following the first harvest, mean frond growth rates of control and harvested plants over the five growth periods were always lowest at the inner stations, and greatest at the outer stations (Figure 4). Druehl (1979) found that plants attached 4 m below zero tide level had frond elongation rates significantly slower than plants at -10 m. Whether the differences in growth rates observed in this study were related to depth cannot be determined since the depth difference was only 2m and the deeper stations were also further offshore, near the outer edge of the bed. Other major factors which may have influenced differential growth among the stations were water motion, nutrient availability, and light.

The initial size class of fronds (less than or equal to 50 cm and greater than 50 cm in length) significantly effected growth rates (Tables 2 and 3). Mean growth rates of small size class fronds were always less than the large size class fronds for any comparable treatment (Figure 4). This is in keeping with Lobban's (1978a) observations that exponential growth of fronds began only after a length of 50 cm was attained.

Harvesting in early June resulted in growth rates which were significantly lower than those observed at control stations (Table 2). All mean growth rates for both size classes of fronds were lower in harvest plants than in comparable controls (Figure 4). The effect was to decrease growth rate 1-2 cm/day at all stations from growth periods 1 through 5. North (1968) observed full recovery of frond growth rates within 1 month on harvested *M. pyrifera* plants in southern California which had up to 55% of the biomass removed.

Harvesting on July 17 significantly affected growth rates (Table 3) from growth periods 3 through 5. Growth rates of these late harvested plants could not be compared with controls from the 2nd growth period

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Table 2. Anova table testing the significance of position (inner, mid, outer), treatment (harvest, control), and initial size class of frond (less than or equal to 50 cm or greater than 50 cm) on fronds elongation rates following the first harvest. Data used were average growth rates of fronds following harvesting in early June through growth period 5.

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Square	f	Significance of f
Maine Effects	253,008	4	63.377	31.302	0.000
Position	150.008	2	75.000	37,151	0.000
Treatment	82.387	1	82.387	40.808	0.000
Sizeclass	38.231	1	38.231	18.937	0.000
2-way Interactions	4.780	5	0.956	0.474	0.795
Position-Treatment	3.397	2	1.699	0.841	0.434
Position-sizeclass	0.327	2	0,164	0.081	0.922
Treatment-sizeclass	0.701	1	0.701	0.347	0.557
3-way Interactions	0.289	2	0.144	0.071	0.931
Position-Treatment-Sizeclass	0.289	2	0.144	0.071	0.931
Explained	258,576	11	27.507	11,644	0.000
Residual	195.832	97	2.019	1.1	17.5
Total	454.408	108	4.207		

Table 3. Anova table testing the significance of position (inner, outer), treatment (harvest, control) and initial size class of fronds (less than or equal to 50 cm or greater than 50 cm) on frond elongation rates following the second harvest. Data used were average growth rates of fronds following harvesting from growth periods 3 through 5.

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	f	2	Of f
Main Effects	117.182	3	39.061	25.430		0.000
Position	0,590	1	0.590	0.384		0.537
Treatment	9,151	1	9.151	5.958		0.017
Sizeclass	69,230	1	69.230	45.072	017	0.000
2-way Interactions	19,902	3	6.634	4.319	1	0.007
Position-Treatment	12.309	1	12.309	8,014		0.006
Position-Sizeclass	12,433	1	12.433	8.094		0.006
Treatment-Sizeclass	4.395	1	4.395	2.861	2	0.095
3-way Interactions	0,167	1	0.167	0.109	3	0.742
Position-Treatment-Sizeclass	0.167	1	0.167	0.109	+*	0.742
Explained	137.251	7	19.607	12,765		0.000
Residual	109.055	71	1,536		2	
Total	246.306	78	3.158	-	3	

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Growth Rate (cm/day

since additional small size class control fronds were not tagged until July 26. Fronds of control plants tagged early in June were too long by the second harvest for meaningful comparison. Following the late harvest, interactions between station position and harvesting treatment and between position and frond size class occurred. (Table 3). At the inner position mean growth rates of both size classes of fronds (particularly small size class fronds) were higher than comparable controls, but at the outer position mean regrowth rates were slightly less than controls (Figure 4). Following the early harvest, growth was clearly retarded in the harvested plants, but following the later harvest there was evidence of a slight enhancement from harvesting at the inner position. Moreover the difference between growth rates of control and harvested plants was much less in the deep plants following the later harvest than after the early harvest.

North (1968) reported that cutting fronds of *M. pyrifera* either caused a marked reduction in subsequent growth rates or an enhancement of growth, the effect realized being controlled by an interplay of increased light availability and the amount of blade tissue remaining on uncut fronds. Except under extremely turbid conditions, the immediate effect of canopy removal is an increase in light availability to juvenile fronds and the remaining blade tissue on cut fronds. North (1968) suggested that this may explain the enhanced growth of juvenile fronds sometimes observed after harvesting.

Lobban (1976, 1978c) has demonstrated that mature blades of both species of *Macrocystis* translocate photosynthate either upward to the apical scimitar and growing blades and/or downward to adjacent juvenile fronds. Removal of the apical scimitar of a mature frond of *M. pyrifera* caused a shift in the translocation pattern such that most of the translocate was exported down to the stipe of adjacent fronds (Lobban, 1977). Lobban (1976) presented data that suggested this effect may also occur in *M. integrifolia*, and he postulated that harvesting may enhance growth of juvenile fronds provided that sufficient numbers of mature blades remain on cut fronds.

The results of this study indicate that following the early

harvest, growth of plants at the inner position (which were cut closest to the sea bed) was no more retarded relative to their controls, than growth of the outermost plants; in fact, relative growth of these inner plants appears to have been enhanced by cutting July 17. These data suggest that the reduced amount of mature tissue remaining on the innermost plants was apparently compensated for by some mechanism, possibly increased light, such that the growth rate of these plants was not reduced relative to that of plants growing in water 1.4 m deeper. This observation may reflect for *M. integrifolia* the importance of the interplay of light availability and remaining blade tissue which was reported for *M. pyrifera* by North (1968). As will be demonstrated in a later section, the lengths of fronds remaining uncut after harvesting is critical to the rate of replenishment of the canopy.

2. Blade Production

The number of blades per length of stipe and the rate of production of blades are reported herein to characterize this north coast population and to evaluate the usefulness of these parameters for testing the effects of harvesting. The mean number of free blades (those released from the apical scimitar) per meter of stipe of control fronds 1-3 m long was 7.3 for inner, 5.8 for middle, and 5.2 for outer position plants for growth period 1 (Table 4); however, the difference in the number of free blades/m was non-significant (p= 0.072) between inner and outer positions. Druehl (1979) found that when Macrocystis plants were transplanted to deeper water the number of blades per mature frond remained essentially the same but that the distance between blades increased. Perhaps the lack of statistical significance in this study is due to the relatively small difference in seabed depth between inner and outer positions. The number of blades per meter of stipe changed little during the following two growth periods. Harvesting did not significantly effect the subsequent number of blades/m at any position (Table 4).

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Table 4. Number of free blades/m of stipe for fronds averaging 1-3 m long on control and harvested plants at inner, middle and outer positions. Means and 95% confidence intervals are given. Means of control and harvested plants were tested after the first harvest by t-tests (ns = non significant).

		lst Growth Period	t s	Growth Periods 1 - 3
	Control	7.3 <u>+</u> 1.2 n = 13		6.9+ 0.9
Inner	Harvest	8.4 <u>+</u> 1. n = 15	1.46 (ns)	7.7 <u>+</u> 1.0
Middle	Control Harvest	5.8 <u>+</u> 0.9 n = 17 5.2 <u>+</u> 0.4 n = 17	1.43 (ns)	5.5 <u>+</u> 1.2 6.0 <u>+</u> 0.8
	Control	5.2 <u>+</u> 1.4 n = 11		5.5 <u>+</u> 1.2
Outer	Harvest	5.3 <u>+</u> 0.9 n = 9	0.09 (ns)	5.9+ 1.1

Mean blade initiation rates of control plants for periods 1-2 were 0.33/day at the inner, 0.27/day at the middle and 0.41/day at the outer position for fronds initially longer than 50 cm. For periods 3-5 mean rates were 0.23/day and 0.21/day respectively at inner and outer positions (Figure 5). These rates are similiar to those reported for other populations of *Macrocystis* in B. C. Sharp (1974) reported a mean rate of 0.4 blades/day for fronds 1-2 m long during August in Barkley Sound; values ranged from 0.2-0.7/day. Lobban (1976) reported rates of 0.22-0.35 blades/day in Barkley Sound from June 10-July 14, 1975.

The effect of harvesting on blade initiation rates was tested by t-tests (Sokal and Rohlf, 1969). At no position did harvesting significantly change blade initiation rates. However, as noted with the data for stipe elongation, a possible enhancement from harvesting is indicated in Figure 5 at the inner position following the second harvest. Fronds initially less than 50 cm in length had lower blade initiation rates than fronds initially greater than 50 cm in all but one case. It appears then that blade initiation rate is a less sensitive measure of growth than frond elongation rate.

20



n less than 5

*

Harvest Control

Blade initiation rates of control and harvested plants following the 1st and 2nd harvests. Means and 95% confidence intervals are plotted. GT = fronds initially greater than 50 cm in length. LT = fronds initially lesser than 50 cm in length. Figure 5.

REPLENISHMENT OF THE HARVESTED CANOPY

In the course of preparing this report we came to believe that the calculation of the canopy replenishment period might well provide a useful means of illustrating the impact of a particular harvesting treatment as well as estimating the potential for carrying out more than one harvest per year. Calculation of replenishment time to seasonally normal frond length distributions requires data of the following types:

- 1. the size class frequency of fronds following harvesting,
- 2. growth rates of various sizes of fronds following harvesting,
- 3. rate of frond recruitment on harvested plants,
- 4. rate of frond mortality on harvested plants,
- 5. size class frequency of fronds on unharvested plants at desired time for comparison with the harvested area, and the
- 6. rate of recruitment of new sporophytes into harvested areas.

The data gathered in this study provided growth rates of various sizes of fronds on harvested plants following harvesting (parameter 1); Average growth rates of fronds in one meter intervals derived from length (see Appendix II) are given in Table 5 for each growth period (parameter 2). Mean frond lengths were all initially less than 1.4 m. Growth rates were sometimes extrapolated beyond the data for a particular period since tagged fronds in a given size class were not always available for measurement.

Coon *et al*(1979) and Coon *et al* (in prep.) provided the size class frequency of fronds in September for the study area in 1976 and 1978 (parameter 5). According to pooled data of frond length distribution from Coon *et al* (1979) and Coon *et al* (in prep.), 44% of the sampled fronds would have formed a canopy at mean HHW (4.8 m above zero tide Table 5. Growth rates of fronds (cm/day) throughout study for harvested plants. These rates were calculated from regression equations of percent daily elongation on Log₁₀ mean frond lengths given in Appendix II. Rates were sometimes extrapolated beyond measured rates (*). ** = fronds tagged in growth period 3. Certain frond lengths were not available for measurement in all periods (-).

Following First Harvest

Following Second Harvest

Growth Period

ond length	Growth Period						
(m)	1	2	3	4	5		
1-2	3.6	4.1	5.4**	2.9**	4.2**		
2-3	5.2	5.4	5.1	3.8**	6.6**		
3-4	6.5*	5.8	6.4	2.7	3.4		
4-5	en ter 71 der	5.9*	7.5	3.6	4.5		
5-6	-	-	8.5*	Langart	5.5*		

2	3	4	5
.6.1	4.2	4.2	i _
9.4	5.5	5.1	5.3
12*	6.2	5.3	5.1
-	-	-	4.9*
	-	-	4.7*

Inner

Growth	Period
ul on ch	1 61 100

Growth Period

	(m)	st the st	2	3	4	5	2	3	4	5
	1-2	5.6	4.0		N. ROJOM	NERVICE LAND	7.7	4.5	3.8	4.3
-	2-3	7.9	4.9	5.0	-	-	13.9	7.2	5.4	5.6
N: 147 -	3-4	9.9*	5.1	5.7	4.0		18.9*	9.7*	6.7	6.5
middle .	4-5	11.6*	5.1	6.0	4.8	100-01	10.0010.001	12.0*	7.7*	7.0*
	5-6	of so-onone	0.94 410		5.6	3.7	IT SYST I	BOM_194	-	-
	6-7	orsidentine a	-	an annsa	6.4*	3.5*	19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 1	* 08 <u>9</u> 080	-	-
	the second se						and the second se	the second se		

Frond length

Frond length

Growth Period

(m)	1	. 2	3	4	
1-2	7.1	-	7.2**	4.3**	4.0**
2-3	10.4	9.3	-	6.3**	6.3**
3-4	13.3	10.9	6.1	3.0	-
4-5	15.8*	11.9*	7.2	3.8	2.7
5-6	17.9*	12.3*	8.1	4.6	3.5
6-7	-	12.8*	9.1	5.3	4.3
7-8	-	-	-	6.1*	5.2

Growth Period

2	3	4	5
6.4	4.4	3.4	3.9
9.8	6.9	4.8	4.8
12.8	9.3	6.0	5.2
15.7*	11.6*	7.0	5.1
	13.8*	7.9	4.7
		8.7*	4.8*
-	-	-	-

Outer

level) in September (6 stations, n = 154 fronds).

We had no data pertinent to parameters 3, 4 and 6 and have assumed for purposes of this discussion that frond recruitment just balances the mortality of uncut fronds on harvested plants and that the recruitment of new sporophytes equals zero.

The time required for a 1 m long frond to reach a length equal to HHW was calculated by using the growth rate in Table 5. For the inner, middle and outer stations the estimated time was 89, 88 and 56 days respectively (Table 6). Following cutting at 1.6 m below mean water level the longest possible remaining uncut fronds at inner, middle and outer positions were 2.0, 2.8 and 3.6 m and the time required for each to reach HHW was calculated to be 55, 34 and 21 days, respectively. After harvesting on July 17, the time required for a 1 m frond to reach HHW at inner, middle and outer positions was 90, 76 and 95 days; the time estimated for the longest possible remaining fronds was 55, 28 and 30 days. Estimated rates following the second harvest were nearly equal for all positions because of the more similar and generally slow growth rates late in summer. The outstanding feature is the more rapid growth rate as longer fronds in exponential phase of growth are left uncut.

From the data provided by Coon *et al* (1979) and Coon *et al* (in prep.), we calculated that harvesting at 1.6 m below mean water level would have left 26% of the fronds in the bed uncut on plants attached 4-5 m below MWL. Thus, in order to reform a canopy at normal frond density, approximately 70% of the fronds would have to arise from frond initials, which are very slow growing. These data indicate that the times calculated for uncut fronds to reach HHW would provide the harvested area with only a sparse canopy by mid-September as most fronds would be submerged at HHW.

One other approach to estimating the impact of harvesting is to serially harvest a defined area and weigh the amount removed. This method directly measures canopy replenishment on the basis of biomass. The problem inherent with this technique is the variable distribution of kelp in the bed. Thus, unless large sample sizes are used, the use

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of biomass to compare treated areas, or to determine seasonal changes in biomass is nearly impossible. For most studies then, only the magnitude of change between various treatments can be compared. These points are illustrated by the following study.

Coon and Lobban (unpublished) harvested 100 m² plots of *Macrocystis* near Port Hardy, B.C. in mid-June 1976, at 1.5, 3.0 and 4.5 m above the sea bed. Three plots were harvested in each case. The average depth of plots was 2.5 m below zero tide. They obtained initial yields $(x \pm s.d.)$ of 307 ± 175 , 206 ± 49 and 108 ± 28 kg, respectively, in these harvest plots. During a second harvest of the same plots in mid-August they obtained 73 ± 29 , 105 ± 15 and 73 ± 9 kg respectively. These yields represent $26 \pm 7\%$, $52 \pm 10\%$ and $70 \pm 14\%$ of the biomass removed in mid-June. Control areas were not harvested to estimate natural changes have probably been minimal.

With this type of study it is assumed that;

- % change in biomass following a treatment is similar throughout the bed and independent of bed density; and that
- 2) % change in biomass in unharvested areas is never greater than for the least severe treatment. This assumption implies that harvesting does not enhance growth.

On this basis we would conclude that the density of kelp in unharvested areas did not decrease more than 30% (100-70) from June to August. Additionally we would conclude that at the two most severe treatments (cuts made at 1.5 and 3.0 m above the sea bed) the biomass was diminished at least 44% (70-26) and 18% (70-52), over the same period. Although differences between treatments were not significant at P<0.05, there is a clear trend which indicates that the canopy did not recover in the two most severe harvest treatment plots. Perhaps using a minimal treatment (such as cutting at 1 m below HHW) would suffice as a control to assess relative seasonal biomass changes in the beds instead of increasing sample size, which, in any event would likely be beyond the capacities

Table 6. Estimated time required to replenish canopy (growth to mean HHW) following harvesting June 9 and July 14, 1974.

Station position	Depth of bed below MHHW (m)	Depth of bed below 0 tide (m)	Longest possible frond remaining following harvesting (m)	Time requi longest po frond rema following to reach H	red for ssible ining harvesting HW (days)	Time requi for a lm f reach HHW	red rond to (days)
		NU LINGUAL COLL CHILO COLL CHILO		After June 9th cutting	After July 15 cutting	After June 9 cutting	After July 15 cutting
Inner	5.4	0.8	2.0	55	55	89	90
Middle	6.2	1.4	2.8	34	28	88	76
Outer	7.0	2.2	3.6	21	30	56	95

of most harvesting studies. While both this and the former method indicated that the canopy would not reach normal seasonal densities following harvesting it is difficult to judge which approach to assessing the impact of harvesting is most accurate. Which method to employ in a given field situation may well depend on the relative cost.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our gratitude to field crew members Jim Dempsey, Lynn (Bissell) Daniels and Ian Daniels who spent many long, cold hours underwater making the measurements which form the data base of this report. The efforts of Lynn Daniels and John Field who produced preliminary drafts of this report are greatly appreciated. We thank Carol Swawn for her painstaking assistance to John while conducting the data reduction and statistical analyses used in the report. Our thanks to Ron Hall for draughting Figures 1-4 and to Vicki Stevenson for her careful typing of the final manuscript. We appreciated the comments and constructive criticisms of Drs. Louis Druehl, Ron Foreman and Chris Lobban.

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the complete experimental period. All calculations in this report were based on these data. F.L. - frond length (cm), No. B. = number of blades; N.E. = no data These data represent only those fronds which persisted throughout Tabulation of frond length and blade number data for stations 1-9 and growth entry; numbers in parentheses in blade number columns are numbers of missing periods 1-5. blades. Appendix I.



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	282	44	e	200	12	275	15	465	20	552	24	650	26(4)
	283	120	7	396	20	510	22	720	32	806	26	920	40(8)
	284	62	5	235	10	335	14	523	19	602	27	720	27(7)
	285	110	7	394	21	497	19	664	33	726	35	980	36(8)
502	256	37	4	162	14	235	14	392	21	485	28	610	34(5)
	257	34	3	159	13	297	15(1)	383	17(1)	465	20(3)	580	27(11)
	258	43	3	167	11	245	17	382	20	444	27	680	26(8)
	260	102	4	333	N.E.	410	22	574	25(1)	605	32(6)	750	35(12)
503	274	06	5	309	14	410	25	620	28(6)	671	30(6)	810	35(12)
	277	45	0	196	11	290	13	450	19	522	27	660	24(10)
	279	89	7	304	13(1)	395	(1)/1	571	24(1)	622	25(7)	710	28(12)
504	266	170	12	305	20	367	19(5)	411	19(12)	466	15(25)	500	12(22)
	267	30	0	145	2	220	10	338	18	387	21	440	20(6)
	268	172	60	480	21(1)	560	26(2)	694	26(7)	720	31(8)	830	30(16)
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334		44	2	245	10	343	11	600	25	710	27(1)
308		69	5	256	16	327	20	452	23(2)	500	26(2)
313		10	0	84	4	148	21	300	16	375	16(1)
322	F	73	H	527	24	690	31	606	44(3)	930	32 (17
323	2	43	9	436	17	571	25	800	37(3)	890	37(6)
325		67	9	310	15	436	18	668	34	770	37
326		53	9	275	12	393	16	598	28	660	26
327	2	37	14	648	32	784	41	1040	45(5)	1110	40(12
328		45	3	229	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	384	16	540	26(1)	560	19(2)
296		33	6	422	21	543	27	700	29(9)	755	29(10
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244 63 4 193 18 294 23 458 $28(9)$ 515 $27(9)$ 51 $27(9)$ 51 $27(9)$ 51 $27(9)$ 51 $27(9)$ 51 $27(9)$ 51 $27(9)$ 51 $27(9)$ 51 $27(9)$ 51 $22(2)$ 364 $25(2)$ 364 $22(2)$ 323		243	85	9	229	17	328	23	488	26(5)	551	31(7)	551	
704 245 30 0 101 7 160 14 317 18 364 25(2) 36 704 220 257 12 510 40 681 39(2) 840 35(7) 880 37(16) 88 225 40 4 154 7 256 16 421 17(1) 495 27(2) 49 228 43 11 259 15 318 22(5) 404 22(10) 435 27(2) 49 205 251 22 0 99 11 323 15 420 15 42		244	63	4	193	18	294	23	458	28(9)	515	27(9)	515	
704 220 257 12 510 40 681 39(2) 840 35(7) 880 37(16) 88 225 40 4 7 256 16 421 17(1) 495 27(2) 49 228 43 11 259 15 318 22(5) 404 22(10) 430 24(19) 43 705 251 22 0 99 11 323 15 420 15 43		245	30	0	101	7	160	14	317	18	364	25(2)	364	
225 40 4 154 7 256 16 421 17(1) 495 27(2) 49 228 43 11 259 15 318 22(5) 404 22(10) 430 24(19) 43 705 251 22 0 99 1 323 15 420 15 42	704	220	257	12	510	40	681	39(2)	840	35(7)	880	37(16)	880	
705 228 43 11 259 15 318 22(5) 404 22(10) 430 24(19) 43 705 251 22 0 99 5 99 11 323 15 420 15 42		225	40	4	154	7	256	16	421	(1)/1	495	27(2)	495	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
705 251 22 0 99 5 99 11 323 15 420 15 42		228	43	1	259	15	318	22(5)	404	22(10)	430	24(19)	430	_
	705	251	22	0	66	£	66	II.	323	15	420	15	420	~





Growth Period

Appendix I (Con't)

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Plant	Frond						7				
Number	Number	F.L.	No.B.	F.L.	No.B.	F.L.	No.B.	F.L.	No.B.	F.L.	No.B.
			S.	tation 9:	Outer p	osition,	late hav	vest			
106	403	157	9	243	S	410	14	460	19	540	(1)61
	405	35	0	65		N.E.	N.E.	202	00	280	9
	406	35	0 0	104	0 4	147	1	203	9 K	2/0	(1)]]
	407	200	0 -	296	10	470	+ 6t	553	25	650	24(1)
	409	16		121	3	253	8	308	12	380	, E
	410	45	-	70	-	153	9	197	6	270	7
902	417	13	0	20	0	N.E.	N.E.	59	4	100	5
	419	212	1	312	13	487	19	555	25	570	13(11)
	421	22	0	29	0	64	8	89	σ	250	ი
	423	123	2	217	7	374	17	450	21	450	16
903	430	213	10	330	11	480	20	540	25	610	31(1)
	431	14	0	25	0	48	2 2	64	2	100	ω
	432	200	7	N.E.	N.E.	435	22	550	20	710	31
	433	60	e	100	e	240	14	294	17	430	20
	434	47	0	68	m	134	б	163	10	250	15
	435	191	10	277	10	456	21	520	24	610	30
904	445	129	9	190	9	360	14	414	24	530	24
	447	62	2	96	9	218	10	274	13	380	15
905	456	125	5	178	9	285	13	321	13	360	12(1)
	461	149	7	220	00	400	(1)/1	464	21	560	24(2)
	462	345	15	440	18	573	25(2)	622	30	710	16(17)
			0								

Growth Period

Appendix I (Con't)

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Appendix II. Regression parameters of percent daily elongation versus Log₁₀ mean frond length (cm), and calculated standard growth rates (G).

Station #	Treatment & Position	Growth Period	Dates (1974)	Slope (m)	y Intercept	G (y at logx=2)	95% Conf. Interval of G
	early harvest; inner	1	Jun 8 - Jul 10	-1.46	5.60	2.68	+ 0.39
	•	2	Jul 10 - Jul 22	-3.26	9.96	3.43	<u>+</u> 0.64
		3	Jul 22 - Aug 14	-1.56	5.81	2.69	<u>+</u> 0.36
		4	Aug 14 - Aug 22	0.17	0.35	0.70	<u>+</u> 0.22
		5	Aug 22 - Sept 9	0.37	0.02	0.75	<u>+</u> 0.40
	early harvest; middle	1	Jun 9 - Jul 12	-2.41	8.96	4.13	<u>+</u> 0.50
		2	Jul 12 - Jul 23	-3.11	10.11	3.89	<u>+</u> 0.39
		3	Jul 23 - Aug 14	-2.66	8.35	3.03	+ 0.33
		4	Aug 14 - Aug 22	-0.59	2.64	1.45	<u>+</u> 0.3/
		5	Aug 22 - Sept 9	-0.89	3.12	1.34	<u>+</u> 0.23
	early harvest; outer	1	Jun 10 - Jul 11	-2.65	10.53	5.21	<u>+</u> 0.53
		2	Jul 11 - Jul 24	-4.41	14.32	5,51	<u>+</u> 0.56
		3	Jul 24 - Aug 15	-1.35	5.18	2.48	<u>+</u> 0.19
		4	Aug 15 - Aug 23	-0.11	1.13	0.91	<u>+</u> 0.14
		5	Aug 23 - Sept 11	0.37	-0.38	0.36	<u>+</u> 0.12
	late harvest; inner	2	Jul 17 - Jul 28	-1.49	7.34	4.37	<u>+</u> 0.65
		3	Jul 28 - Aug 18	-2.81	8.93	3.31	<u>+</u> 0.51
		4	Aug 18 - Aug 28	-3.57	10.59	3.45	<u>+</u> 0.49
		5	Aug 28 - Sept 16	-4.85	13.79	4.09	<u>+</u> 0.48
	early control, middle	1	Jun 12 - Jul 15	-0.91	6.39	4.56	<u>+</u> 0.96
		2	Jul 15 - Jul 26	-5.34	16.17	5.49	<u>+</u> 0.59
			Jul 26 - Aug 16	-1.76	6.39	2.88	<u>+</u> 0.32
		4	Aug 16 - Aug 26	-3.39	10.48	3.71	<u>+</u> 0.30
		5	Aug 26 - Sept 13	-0.01	1.10	1.07	<u>+</u> 0.28
	early control; outer		Jun 13 - Jul 16	-3.71	13.16	5.73	<u>+</u> 0.82
			Jul 16 - Jul 27	-3.99	13.07	5.09	<u>+</u> 0.69
			Jul 27 - Aug 17	-3.13	10.52	4.26	<u>+</u> 0.44
			Aug 17 - Aug 27	-2.00	6.87	2.87	<u>+</u> 0.41
			Aug 27 - Sept 16	-2.32	7.56	2.93	<u>+</u> 0.37
	late control; outer	3	Jul 27 - Aug 17	-0.87	6.04	4.30	+ 1.30
	(recagged)	v	Aug 17 - Aug 27	-3.03	9.77	3.70	+ 1.35
			Aug 27 - Sept 16	-2.11	7.32	3.09	<u>+</u> 1.21
	early control inner		.lun 11kul 13	-2 40	8.33	3.52	+ 0.58
	curry concret, inno.		Jul 13 - Jul 25	-4.27	13.39	4,86	+ 0.82
			Jul 25 - Aug 16	-2.09	7.37	3.20	+ 0.38
			Aug 16 - Aug 26	-1.99	6.66	2.68	+ 0.36
			Aug 26 - Sept 13	-0.73	3.28	1.81	<u>+</u> 0.39
	late control: inner						
	(retagged)	3	Jul 25 - Aug 16	0.81	2.36	3.99	<u>+</u> 0.39
			Aug 16 - Aug 26	-0.49	4.11	3.13	+ 0.48
			Aug 26 - Sept 13	-1.04	5.27	3.19	<u>+</u> 0.33
8	late harvest; middle	2	Jul 19 - Jul 28	0.78	3.44	5.00	<u>+</u> 0.86
			Jul 28 - Aug 18	-0.72	4.61	3.17	<u>+</u> 0.71
			Aug 18 - Aug 28	-1.80	6.49	2.89	<u>+</u> 0.78
			Aug 28 - Sept 16	-2.79	8.95	3.36	<u>+</u> 0.84
9	late harvest; outer	2	Jul 18 - Jul 29	-1.65	7.89	4.58	± 1.31
			Jul 29 - Aug 19	-0.78	4.65	3.10	<u>+</u> 0.50
			Aug 19 - Aug 29	-1.47	5.46	2.52	+ 0.39
			Aug 29 - Sept 16	-3.16	9.51	3.20	<u>+</u> 0.63
	early harvest; inner	3	Jul 22 - Aug 14	_1 00	F 0F	3 70	+ 0 oc
	(recayyea)	4	Aug 14 - Aug 14	-1.09	5.77	2 22	+ 0.00
		5	Aug 22 - Sept 6	-0.82	4.60	2.95	<u>+</u> 0.60
3	early harvest: outer						
-	(retagged)	3	Jul 24 - Aug 15	0.29	4.16	4.74	<u>+</u> 0.60
		4	Aug 15 - Aug 23	-1.75	6.71	3.22	<u>+</u> 0.74
		5	Aug 23 - Sept 11	-0.48	3.68	2.72	<u>+</u> 0.41