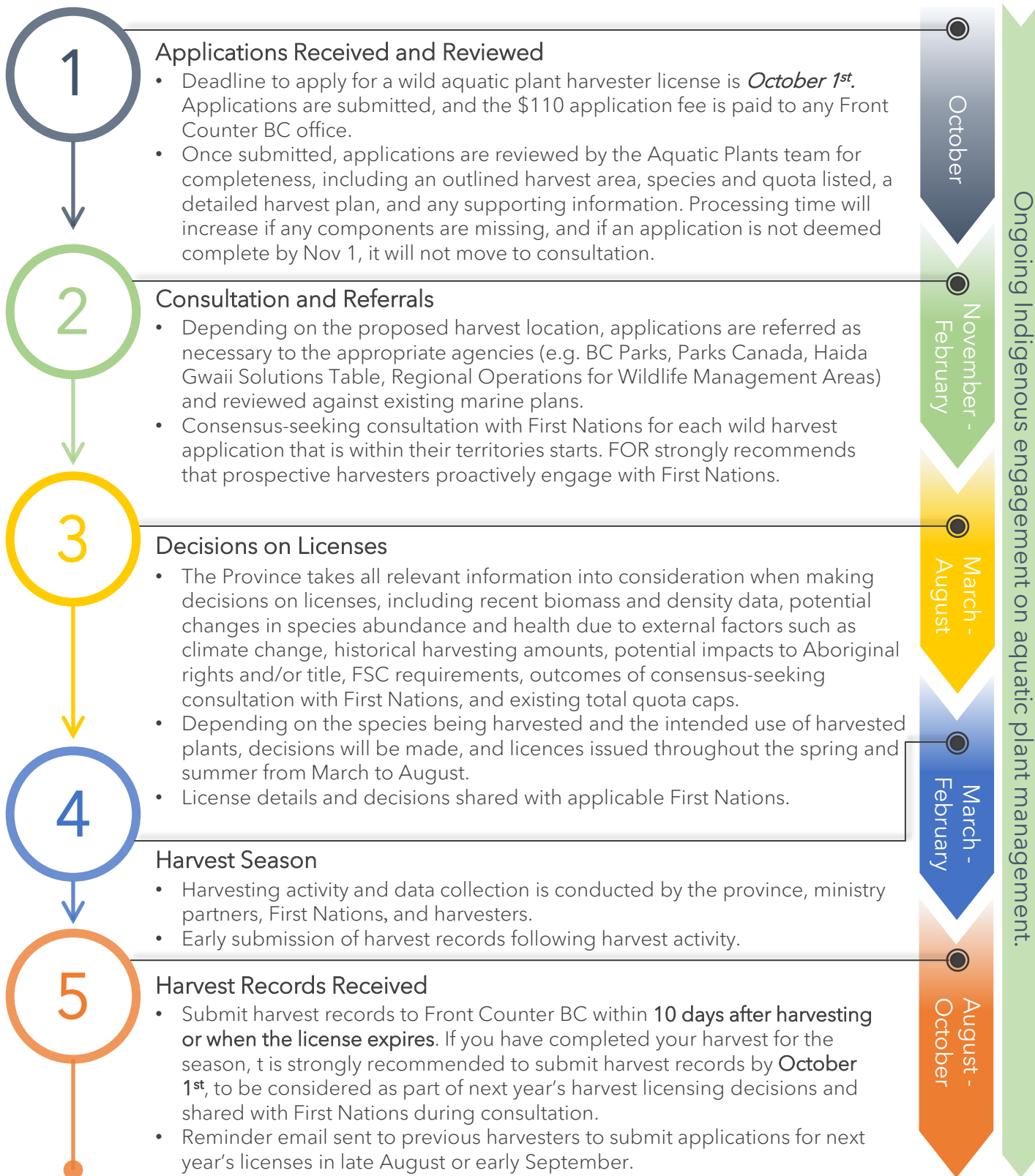


# Wild Aquatic Plant Harvest: Licensing Process & Season Timeline

Wild aquatic plant harvesting is managed and authorized by the **BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**. Harvest is regulated and decisions are legislated through the *BC Fish and Seafood Act* and the *Fish and Seafood Licensing Regulations*. The licensing process and general timeline for authorizations within a season is outlined below.



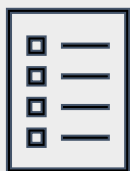
# Wild Aquatic Plant Harvest: Licence Application Guide & Requirements

**PRIOR TO APPLYING**, it is strongly recommended that prospective harvesters reach out to share information and develop relationships with the Nations within whose territory you are applying to harvest.



*There are great resources on engaging with First Nation here:*  
[Consulting with First Nations - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)  
*You can also research the area you are applying for here:*  
[Explore by Location - Natural Resource Online Services \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

**A DETAILED HARVEST PLAN PROPOSAL** is required as part of your application for a wild aquatic plant harvester licence. Be as detailed as possible in describing your harvesting practices, the ecology of the proposed harvest area, and information on the biomass and distribution of the aquatic plant species in your proposed harvest area. If applying for the first time, you will be asked to provide additional evidence that there is sufficient biomass in the area to support a harvest. Harvest Plan Proposals are shared with First Nations as part of application packages during consultation. If harvesters fail to submit a complete Harvest Plan, it can delay the permitting process for their application.

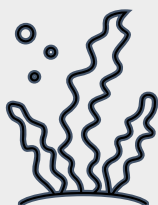


**MAP YOUR SPECIFIC PROPOSED HARVEST AREA** with as much detail as possible. Please include specific details of the area, including names of major landmarks, islands, bays, and coordinates (Lat/Long, UTM). Maps will be converted to a GIS shapefile and confirmed with you as part of the initial review process.



*You can use iMap BC to outline your proposed harvest area electronically (using the 'Sketch' function):* [iMapBC \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

**FOLLOW FISH AND SEAFOOD LICENSING REGULATIONS AROUND HARVEST PRACTICES.** All harvesting is done by hand (no raking, dredging or diving) in a manner that does not disturb or expose the substrate, and harvesting must be done in a way that allows for regrowth of the plant (no removal or disturbance of the holdfast) and maintains the integrity of the aquatic plant bed within the harvest area (no more than 20% of any bed is taken within a season).



*Please review the regulations on aquatic plant harvest practices [here](#).*

## FORMS

## CONTACT INFO

*You can access the **Wild Aquatic Plant Harvester and Harvest Plan Proposal** application on our website.*

*There are new guidebooks to assist you in filling out the new application forms which are also available on the website.*

**Website:** [Aquatic plant harvesting - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

**Questions about the application process?**

Reach out to Front Counter BC at  
[1\(877\) 855-3222](tel:18778553222) or [FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca)

**For info about wild aquatic plant harvesting:**

Reach out to the Aquatic Plants Team at  
[aquaticplants.Courtenay@gov.bc.ca](mailto:aquaticplants.Courtenay@gov.bc.ca)