

EN  
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Answer given by Ms Roswall  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(4.8.2025)

The Commission is aware of the serious problems that the species *Rugulopteryx okamurae* is causing in various coastal areas of Andalucía, elsewhere in Spain and increasingly in other EU Member States.

As regards potential uses of this alga, Article 9 of the Invasive Alien Species Regulation<sup>1</sup> would not be the appropriate Article, since authorisations under this Article may be granted, upon request from the Member States and in exceptional cases of compelling public interest, usually to establishments that are already carrying out commercial activities, typically with live specimens.

The Article relevant to potential commercialisation of this species would be Article 19(2) of the Regulation, which states that ‘The commercial use of already established invasive alien species may be temporarily allowed as part of the management measures aimed at their eradication, population control or containment, under strict justification and provided that all appropriate controls are in place to avoid any further spread’. Such management measures may be taken by the Member States and must respect the provisions of Article 19 of the Regulation and any relevant national legislation, but they are not subject to authorisation from the Commission.

For more information on the national/regional measures implemented or planned, also as regards commercialisation of *Rugulopteryx okamurae*, the Commission refers the Honourable Member to the competent authorities in the Member State.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 35–55.