



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Marine Region
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, California 93109
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



EELGRASS NOTICE

October 3, 2014

Subject: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Requirements for Collection and Transplanting of Eelgrass.

To Whom it may concern:

The process of translocating eelgrass (*Zostera marina*, *Z. pacifica*) for purposes of research, restoration, or mitigation requires two distinct authorizations. The authority to *remove* eelgrass from the environment requires a Scientific Collecting Permit (Fish and Game Code section 1002; title 14, California Code of Regulations section 650); while the authority to *place* eelgrass back into the environment requires a Letter of Authorization (Fish and Game Code section 6400).

The Scientific Collecting Permit application should be sent to our License and Revenue Branch at the address on the application. The application must contain a detailed project description that includes any mitigation or restoration plans, detailed site maps, proposed work timeframe, photos, and current and/or historical eelgrass survey reports for the donor and transplant sites. The Scientific Collecting Permit application is available at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/research_permit/. Once the application is received, the Marine Region will initiate the Letter of Authorization, and you may be asked to supply more information during this time. The Scientific Collecting Permit and the Letter of Authorization will be issued separately, and the project may not commence until both authorizations are received. The Scientific Collecting Permit may take several months to obtain, so please plan accordingly.

Donor eelgrass for transplants is to be collected from established beds. Donor sites should be chosen based on similar abiotic conditions and eelgrass morphology to transplant site, proximity to the transplant site, and existence of historical data characterizing the donor beds, if available. The donor locations should be specifically described and, to the extent possible, should not be within the boundaries of a State Marine Protected Area (MPA). Extenuating circumstances may dictate eelgrass removal from MPAs and the Department has the ultimate discretion in approving the selection of a donor bed from any site.

Any questions regarding this process should be directed to Brian Owens, Marine Environmental Scientist at 650-631-6786 or Brian.Owens@wildlife.ca.gov

Eelgrass Notice
October 3, 2014
Page 2

Thank you for your time and efforts to protect California's eelgrass resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Shuman".

Craig Shuman D. Env
Region Manager
Marine Region

ec: Becky Ota, Environmental Program Manager
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Becky.Ota@Wildlife.ca.gov

Vicki Frey, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Vicki.Frey@Wildlife.ca.gov

Brian Owens, Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Brian.Owens@wildlife.ca.gov