



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Special Public Notice

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ANNOUNCEMENT: Two Clarifications of Permit Application Requirements for Mooring Buoys

Clarification 1, for all types of permit applications: Permit applications for mooring buoys with helical screw anchors and midline floats installed with hand tools no longer need to include an eelgrass delineation or survey. It is not expected that mooring buoys of this nature would impact eelgrass beds. However, if during the permit review process, it is determined that individual Endangered Species Act consultation is necessary, an eelgrass survey may be required and the applicant will be notified early on in the permit review process if this delineation/survey is required.

Specifically, in regards to Nationwide Permit (NWP) 10 for non-commercial, single-boat, mooring buoys, National General Condition 32(b)(5) requires the submittal of a delineation of special aquatic sites (SAS), which includes vegetated shallows (i.e., eelgrass beds) or the applicant can request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) delineate the SAS. For use of NWP 10, the applicant does not need to submit a delineation of SAS with their application. But as stated above, if the Corps determines one is necessary for a particular application, the applicant will be notified that one is required.

Clarification 2, NWP 10 Non-commercial, single-boat, mooring buoys: NWP 10, Specific Regional Condition 2 requires that no more than one mooring structure be authorized in an acre, unless waived by the District Engineer (DE). To determine if this requirement is met, you need to draw a circle with a 118-foot radius with the proposed buoy in the center of the circle. If another mooring structure exists within that 1 acre circle, then your project would be reviewed for a waiver by the DE for the project to be authorized under NWP 10. If the waiver is not granted, then the proposal will be processed through our Individual Permit process.