

SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE PERMITTING PROGRAM UPDATE

Seattle District
US Army Corps of Engineers
21 June 2017

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File Name:



US Army Corps
of Engineers



U.S. ARMY

AGENDA

Welcome by Seattle District Commander
COL John Buck

Introductions

2017 Nationwide Permit 48 Procedures

Eelgrass Delineation Guidance

Questions & Answers

Closing Remarks



SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE

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2017 NWP 48 VERIFICATION PROCEDURES

- Verified approximately 730 NWP 48's for Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture under the 2012 NWP 48
- 2017 NWP's Published March 2017
- Summarize 2017 NWP 48
 - *New operations have not been in commercial operation in 100 years
 - *Option to group multiple leases into 1 project area
- Objective: A streamlined, predictable and transparent process compliant with Corps regulatory requirements.



2017 NWP 48 VERIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR 2012 NWP 48 AUTHORIZED PROJECTS

- Procedures apply to previously authorized 2012 NWP 48 with no changes or for the period of time the NWP is valid
- Applicants will receive 2 copies of a verification letter and attachments
- If no changes have occurred, and are not expected to occur, one copy is signed and returned to the Corps, Second copy for grower's records
- ESA coverage from 2012 NWP 48 will carry-over
- Instructional Cover Sheet included & PA issued June 9, 2017
- Operations with no previous verification follow standard PCN procedures

2017 NWP 48 VERIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR 2012 NWP 48 AUTHORIZED PROJECTS

Q: What if I've made changes or plan to before March 2022?

A: Contact your Corps of Engineers Project Manager

Q: What if I don't expect to make changes but later decide I want to make a change?

A: Contact your Corps of Engineers Project Manager

Changes may include:

- *altering the area of cultivation
- *changing species or cultivation method (for example, bottom culture to elevated)

2017 NWP 48 VERIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR 2012 NWP 48 AUTHORIZED PROJECTS

Schedule:

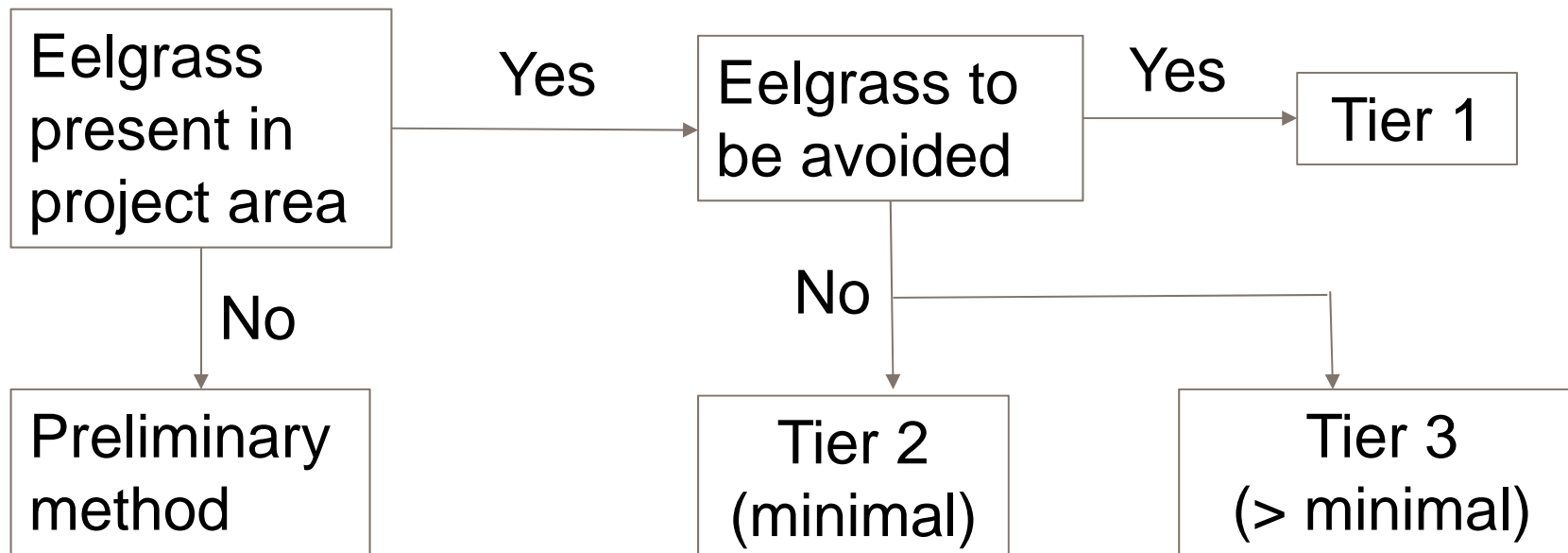
- Start verifying previously verified NWP 48s summer 2017
- Request response within 45 days
- Current verifications expire March 2018



EELGRASS DELINEATION GUIDANCE

- NEED: Eelgrass is a *special aquatic site* requiring identification per General Condition 32- Notification
- *DRAFT* Guidance made available to public May 2016
- *DRAFT* Guidance is for Regulatory Program and is discretionary
- Solicited user feedback and comment
- Training for user groups conducted and additional comments received
- All comments received to date have been considered and incorporated into a *DRAFT* Version 2.

EELGRASS DELINEATION GUIDANCE



EELGRASS DELINEATION GUIDANCE

- A new eelgrass delineation is typically not required for previously verified operations with no changes
- Identification of eelgrass will be required for expansion of existing operations, OR;
- New operations requiring a Department of the Army Permit (per GC 32), OR
- Identification of eelgrass will be required for operations returning to areas uncultivated since 2007 which contain eelgrass (for ESA coverage per PBO)

Questions

