



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Special Public Notice

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ANNOUNCEMENT: Components of a Complete Eelgrass Delineation Report Guidelines – Updated Version Now Available

BACKGROUND: This document provides technical guidelines and procedures for identifying and delineating native eelgrass beds which are a type of special aquatic site regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Eelgrass beds may also be affected by activities requiring permits under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403). The document describes the technical guidelines and procedures to determine absence of eelgrass in a project area or delineate an eelgrass boundary where there is an expectation for eelgrass habitat to occur in the project vicinity, but the project intends to avoid work in eelgrass beds. Although these guidelines are specifically for eelgrass, they may be applicable for other types of seagrasses.

PURPOSE: The technical guidelines and procedures have been developed to assist applicants and/or their consultants within the geographic area covered by the Seattle District U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The guidelines and procedures are recommended for use when there is an expectation for eelgrass habitat to occur in the project vicinity but a project intends to avoid work in eelgrass beds. By clarifying the guidelines and procedures, we hope to increase the efficiency of the regulatory program and streamline review of proposed projects. This document is also intended to reflect the current knowledge of eelgrass in Washington State and could be modified in the future as new science is developed and/or clarifications are needed.

Please note, in cases where work may occur in native eelgrass beds or if compensatory mitigation involving eelgrass is proposed, please contact the Corps for additional guidance on the characterization (i.e., quality, quantity, etc.) of eelgrass areas.

To view the *Components of a Complete Eelgrass Delineation Report*, please visit our website at <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil> and select Regulatory Branch Permit Information, then Forms.

For additional information, please contact Mathew Bennett, Section Chief, Regulatory Branch at (206) 764- 3428 or by email at matthew.j.bennett@usace.army.mil.