

Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration

BWSC-NRD-2019-01

Pre-Grant Announcement Information Session

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Natural Resource Damages Assessment &
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MassDEP

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Mass DMF

October 21, 2019

SMAST

New Bedford, Massachusetts



Topics for Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration

- **Meeting Purpose**
 - Information Session
- **Overview of NRD**
 - Trust Resources
- **Eelgrass Restoration**
 - B120 NRD Settlement/Trustees
 - Available Funding
 - Goal of project
 - Monitoring
- **Eligibility**
 - Geographic Focus Area
 - Applicants
- **Grant Application**
 - Timeline
 - Application Tips/Requirements
 - Selecting Applications
 - How Applications are Reviewed
 - Eligibility Criteria
 - Evaluation Criteria
- **Grant Awards**
- **Questions**



Meeting Purpose

- **Information Session prior to release of Grant Announcement and Application (GAA)**
 - **Communication – can:**
 - Provide information about the GAA
 - Provide feedback regarding potential projects
- **When the GAA is released:**
 - **Communication – cannot:**
 - Applicants are prohibited from communicating directly with any employee of the procuring department or any member of the Grant Review Team...and no other individual Commonwealth employee or representative is authorized to provide any information or respond to any question or inquiry concerning this Grant Announcement.



Following a release of oil or hazardous materials...

Cleanup

- ❑ Determine nature and extent of contamination
- ❑ Select and implement actions to eliminate & reduce risks to human health & environment



Natural Resource Damages

- ❑ Assess injuries to natural resources and the services they provide
- ❑ Determine appropriate amount and type of restoration required to compensate for injuries
- ❑ Measure success by the amount of restoration achieved (acres, miles, fledgling birds)



Trust Resources

- **Natural Resources**

- Biological
- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Air
- Geologic (Soils, Sediments)

- **Services**

- *Support* (fish spawning, rearing)
- *Regulating* (sediment transport)
- *Provision* (water supply, fish, shellfish consumption)
- *Cultural* (fishing, waterfowl hunting)



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration BWSC-NRD-2019-01

- **Bouchard B-120 Settlement and Restoration Plan.**

- 2011 settlement agreement associated with April 2003 oil spill.
- \$6,076,393 for NRD for injury to Shoreline and Aquatic Resources, Recreational Resources, Endangered Piping Plovers, Ram Island Shoreline Resources

- **Trustees**

- The National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
- The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), acting through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW)
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting through Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) represented by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration Overview

BWSC-NRD-2019-01

- **Available Funding**

- \$100,000 for Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration (Shoreline and Aquatic Resources)

- **Goal of Grants of Restoration Projects**

- Replace up to **25** to **30** conventional chain moorings with innovative floating rode moorings (conservation moorings) (estimated at \$3,000 each) in harbors in Buzzards Bay where existing moorings are known to be causing scouring and eelgrass loss.
- Water Quality should be stable or improving with favorable conditions to sustain eelgrass beds



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration Overview

BWSC-NRD-2019-01

- **Conservation Moorings -Definition**

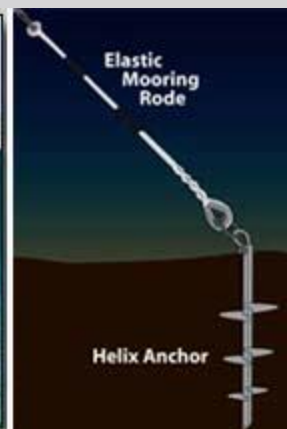
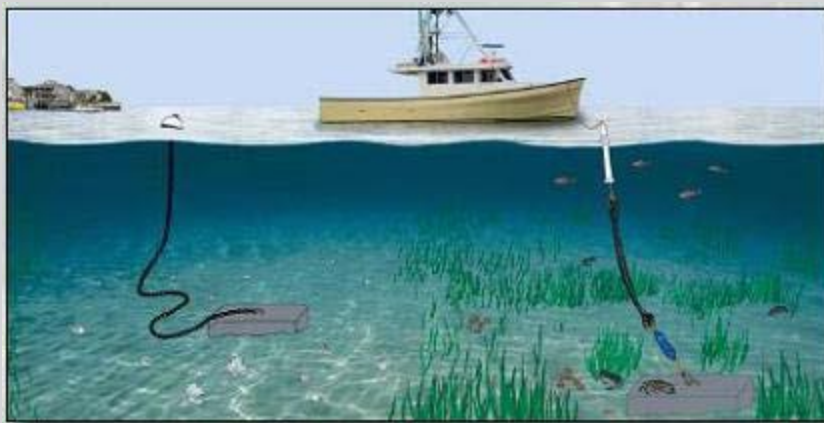
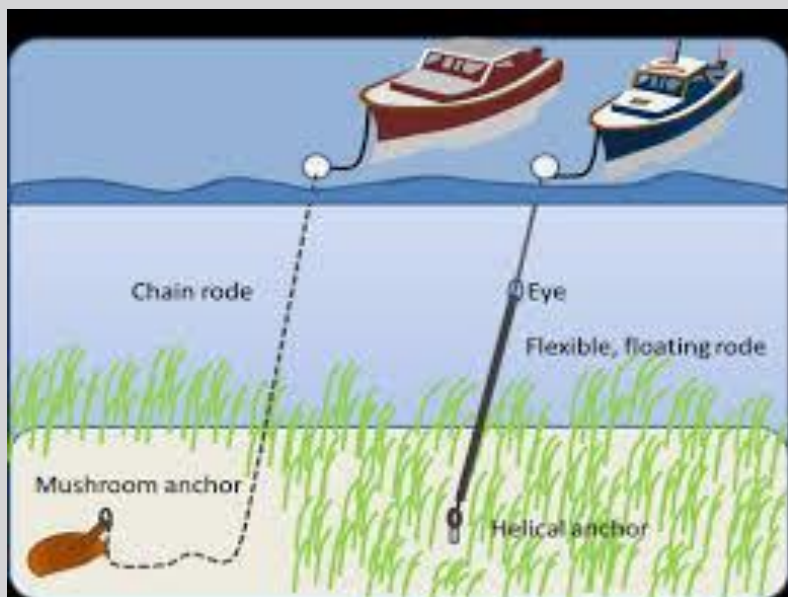
- Replace the block with a helical anchor that is screwed into the substrate, resulting in minimal footprint impact.
- Replace the metal chain with a reinforced, expandable elastic rode or flexible, floating chain that is fixed to the anchor, preventing the attached rode from dragging and scouring the eelgrass bed and substrate.
- Also referred to as “**floating rode moorings.**”



Impacts of conventional chain moorings on habitat



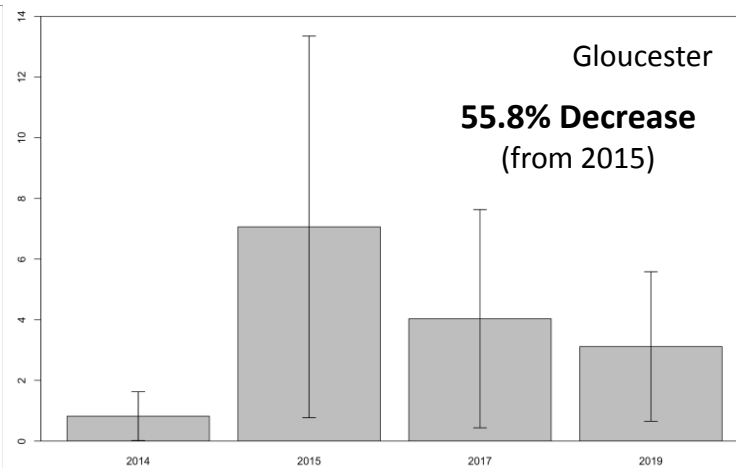
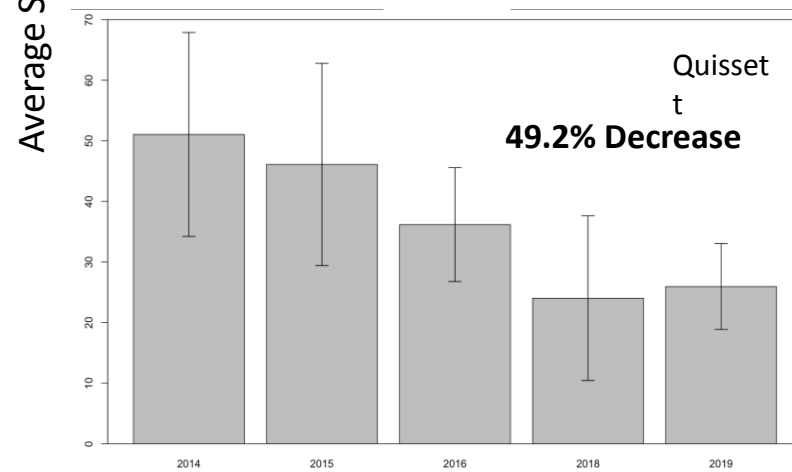
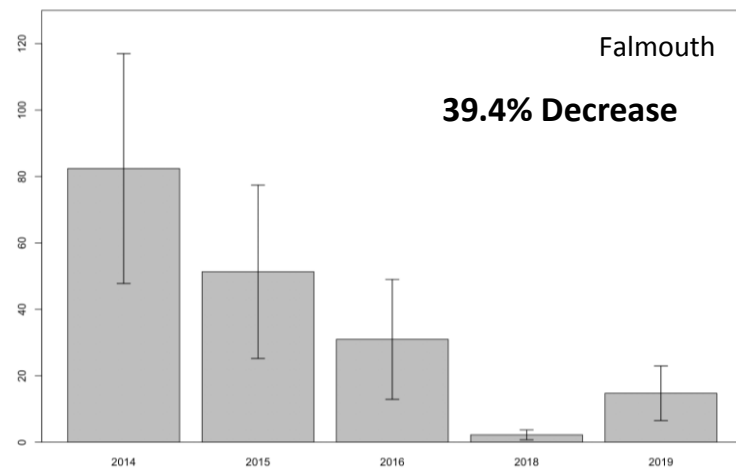
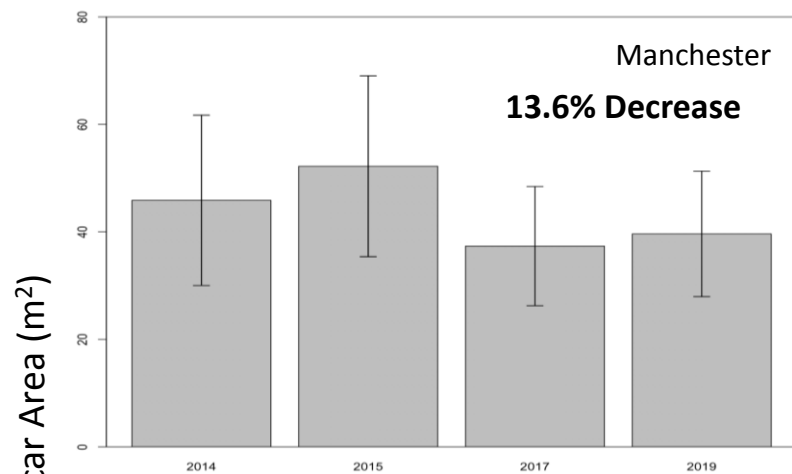
Diagrams of Conservation Moorings





DMF field study findings

- Total of 44 moorings surveyed in from 2012-2019
- 32 out of 44 mooring scars decreased in size from initial survey (73%)
- 5 moorings were converted back to chain with increase in scar
- 3 out of 5 harbors saw an overall decrease in scar area
- Eelgrass is growing back similarly to reference bed characteristics (shoot density/ % cover)



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration Overview

BWSC-NRD-2019-01

- **Monitoring and Measures of Success**

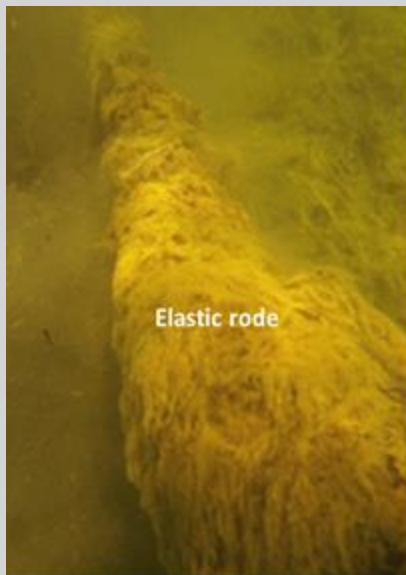
- Project delivers tangible and specific results that are measurable
- Awardees will be required to document conditions before and after conservation mooring installation with **monitoring for a minimum of 3 years** after installation.
- **Monitoring** shall occur in July; photos of each mooring site including inside and outside the scar and mooring tackle.
- **Provide MA DMF with mooring installation and maintenance record and annual monitoring reports.**
- MA DMF to audit a percentage of the moorings to document eelgrass presence/absence inside and outside the scar and the condition of the mooring.



Problems to avoid



- Installation and sizing - Mooring not sized correctly, top chain was too long, two rodees tied together.
- Maintenance – heavy fouling, replacement parts may be needed after a few years.



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration

Eligible Geographic Focus Areas

BWSC-NRD-2019-01

- **Buzzards Bay Watershed**

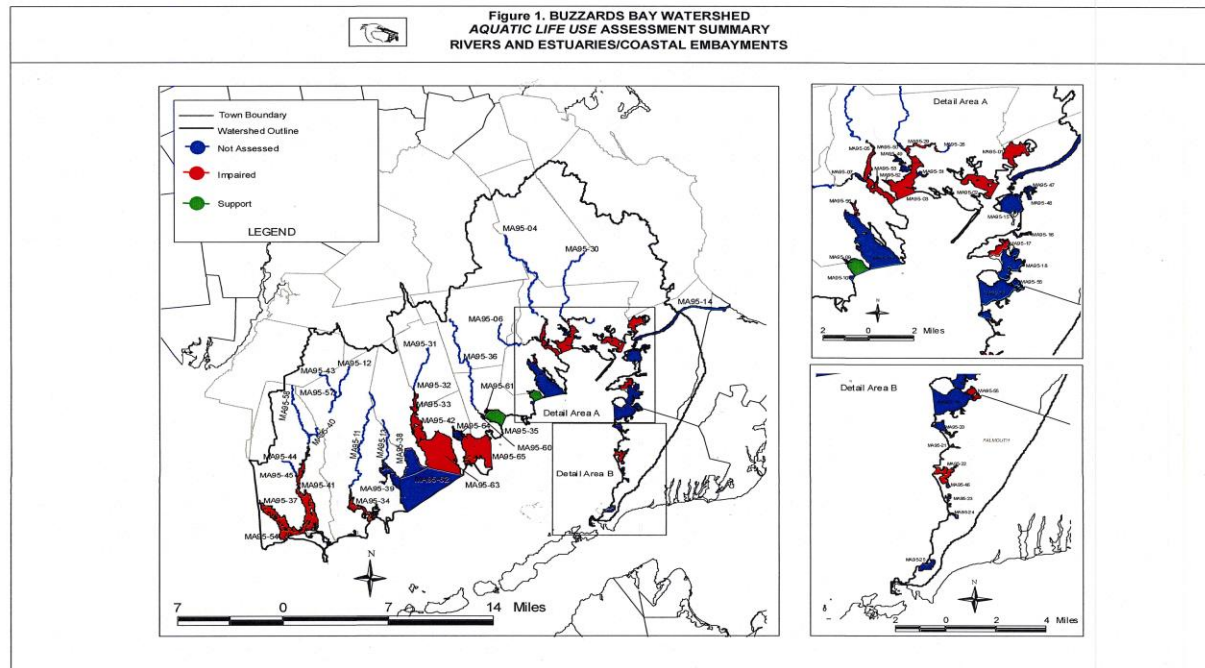
- projects must be located in the embayments of the Buzzards Bay watershed. The Buzzards Bay watershed is delineated and described in the "BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED 2000 WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT REPORT" (Report Number: 95-AC-2), Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Watershed Management, Worcester, Massachusetts, November 2003.
- The link to this document (4 sections) is:
<https://www.mass.gov/lists/water-quality-assessment-reports-blackstone-through-islands-watersheds#buzzards-bay-watershed---2000->



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration

Eligible Geographic Focus Areas

BWSC-NRD-2019-01



Buzzards Bay Watershed Water Quality Assessment Report
95wqar.doc DWM CN 54.0

xv

Who Can Apply?

- **Public entities**

- state or local government including a county, municipality, local public authority, school district, special district, district commission, regional government, any agency or instrumentality of government, and state authorities

- **Non-public entities**

- individuals, partnerships, and corporations (private, non-profit, quasi-public, or corporate body politic)
-
- Organizations based outside the eligible geographic focus area are eligible to apply so long as the proposed restoration project takes place within the project area.
 - Partnerships and collaborative efforts between organizations are encouraged.
 - Eligible applicants may submit more than one application for distinct restoration projects.



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration Grant Announcement and Application

BWSC-NRD-2019-01

Anticipated release date: December 2019

Notification of GAA release will be available at:

- MassDEP NRD website at:
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/cleanup/nrd/nrd-restoration-funding-opportunities.html>
- Commonwealth's Procurement website(COMMBUYS) available at:
www.commbuys.com.html
- Via email to known interested parties

GAA materials will be available at:

- COMMBUYS website
 - Search using "Contract & Bid Search" (Bid)
 - "nrd" in description field
 - Commodity code for Grants 00-00-00
- MassDEP NRD website



Grant Application – Timeline (Estimated)

PROCUREMENT EVENT	DATE
Grant Announcement Posted on MassDEP website and COMMBUYS	December 3, 2019
Deadline for submission of written questions to MassDEP Grant Contact Person (see Section 2D): Cathy.Kiley@mass.gov	December 10, 2019; 5:00 p.m.
Official answers posted on MassDEP website	December 17, 2019; 5:00 p.m.
Grant Application due date	January 7, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
Announcement of awards on COMMBUYS and MassDEP Website	February 4, 2020 (estimated)
Contract Start Date	March 1, 2020 (estimated)



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration

Grant Announcement and Application

BWSC-NRD-2019-01

The GAA is anticipated to include:

- Section 1: GAA Table of Contents
- Section 2: Grant Summary
- Section 3: Eligibility
- Section 4: Definitions
- Section 5: Procurement and Grant Contract Information
- Section 6: Instructions for Submitting an Application
- Section 7: Terms and Conditions of Grant Contract Awards
- Section 8: List of Attachments
- Section 9: List of Acronyms
- Attachments: Application Form, Application Requirements, Supplemental Terms & Conditions, Conflict of Interest Guidance and Disclosure Certification



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration

Application Tips and Requirements

BWSC-NRD-2019-01

Application

- Attachment A – separate document; all Sections must be completed (Sections 1-10). Can be completed in MS Word – expandable boxes, can attach photos, etc.)

Multiple Applications

- Applicants may submit more than one proposal for distinct projects.

Applicants' Questions

- Following release of the GAA:
 - MassDEP will hold an Applicants' Conference.
 - Written questions will be accepted (up to a date identified in the GAA) and answered by MassDEP.



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration

Application Tips and Requirements

BWSC-NRD-2019-01

Application

- Section 1 – Applicant Information
- Section 2 – Project Description (include location, harbor, marina, latitude/longitude, current mooring type and proposed mooring type)
- Section 3 - Project questions – marina
- Section 4 – Community information
- Section 5 – Site Photos
- Section 6 – Project Summary – current conditions, project goals and natural resource benefits to be gained
- Section 7 – Project Background – current eelgrass habitat and moorings
- Section 8 - Project Description – how will it be deigned, permitted, built, and implemented; operation/maintenance components; community outreach, etc.
- Section 9 - Project Benefits
- Section 10 – Signatures



How will Projects Applications be reviewed?

- **Eligibility Criteria**

- Mandatory

- **Evaluation Criteria**

- Used to prioritize eligible projects
- Include *Focus, Benefit, and Implementation* Categories

- **Grant Review Team (includes DMF)**



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration Projects

BWSC-NRD-2019-01

- **Eligible Projects Must:**

- Have a strong link to natural resources and the services they provide to ecosystems and humans that were injured by the Bouchard B-120 oil spill into Buzzards Bay.
- Restore eelgrass habitat in the geographic focus area.
- Include replacement of existing moorings currently located within an eelgrass meadow with demonstrable scars (aerial photos, SCUBA or snorkeler measurements or observations).
- Be a tangible on-the-ground restoration project.
- Be consistent with federal, state, or local law, regulation or policies. **Conservation moorings must be currently authorized by the harbormaster and/or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration Additional Eligibility Criteria

BWSC-NRD-2019-01

- **Eligible Projects Must Not:**

- Restore eelgrass or other submerged vegetation (SAV) habitat types outside of the geographic focus area.
- Be subject to an independent, prior legal obligation to perform the project.
- Include replacement of existing moorings currently located in habitat that does not impact eelgrass
- Be a proposal to conduct a study for a future restoration project or for research purposes.
- Be located on a site so contaminated or degraded as to absorb significant amount of the potentially allocated costs for cleanup as relative to restoration.
- Use funds for continued operation, maintenance or support of an existing restoration project or natural resource.



Submitting Applications

- **Application (Attachment A)**
 - Includes Applicant Information, Project Information, Checklist for potential Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts
- **Detailed Application Requirements (Attachment B)**
 - Provides details for Application, including Section 8ii Project Cost Resumes
- **Supplemental Terms and Conditions (Attachment C)**
 - Applies to the grant contracts that are issued/awarded
 - Details requirements for invoicing regarding compensation and payment
 - Details conflict of interest and other obligations
- **Conflict of Interest Certification Statement (Attachment D)**
 - Applies to awardees and subcontractors/consultants



Where to Submit Applications

- **Application Deadline (estimated)**

- The Application and all supporting documents must be delivered to MassDEP by **4:30 pm on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.**

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup
One Winter Street, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Re: BWSC-NRD-2019-01
Attn: Cathy Kiley



NRD Grant Awards

Grant Awards

- Single or Multiple Awards as Contract
- Grant Awards will have maximum \$
- Estimate \$2,500-\$3,000 range for each mooring
- Duration:
 - 2 years with 2 1-year renewal options – total of 4 years

Contracts

- Commonwealth Standard Contract
- Commonwealth Terms and Conditions
- Supplemental Terms and Conditions
- Payment
 - Grantees reimbursed for costs/expenses



Conservation Boat Moorings for Eelgrass Restoration

BWSC-NRD-2019-01

MassDEP NRD Contract Administrator

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