

Native Eelgrass Transplant and Seeding



Eelgrass in San Francisco Bay.

What are these buoys in the water?

The buoys are part of a project to restore the quality of San Francisco Bay! Each buoy is connected to a mesh bag containing eelgrass flowering shoots with ripening seeds. These “seed buoys” will move with the tides, distributing seeds that, by next spring, will develop into new eelgrass seedlings on the bay bottom. By seeding and transplanting eelgrass in this area where none currently exists, we hope to create vibrant eelgrass beds that provide cover and food for fish, juvenile Dungeness crabs and birds.

Why do we need these buoys?

Eelgrass beds provide important habitat in San Francisco Bay as juvenile fish nurseries and foraging areas for many species of fish, invertebrates and birds. They also improve water quality by reducing turbidity. This is part of a project which has the ultimate goal of compensating for past oil spill impacts by creating 70 new acres of eelgrass at several sites throughout San Francisco Bay over nine years. This project is funded by the legal settlement following the 2007 M/V *Cosco Busan* oil spill. Eelgrass restoration is also supported by many resource agencies and the public to improve the quality of the subtidal environment in the bay.

When will the buoys go away?

The edges of the restoration site are marked by large poly buoys (photo, above right) of international orange (red) and will be 14.5” D x 19.5” H. All the buoys will be removed by mid-September of 2014. After that, the dropped seeds and transplanted eelgrass should begin to establish themselves in this area. Future monitoring will determine the success of the project. Corners of plots containing the seed buoys are marked with additional oblong marker buoys (photo, lower right).

Who should I contact for more information?

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Or visit:

http://www.noaa.gov/features/resources_0509/seeds.html

www.darrp.noaa.gov/southwest/cosco/index.html

www.sfbaysubtidal.org



Large poly buoys marking the edges of the restoration area.



Seed buoys.

See map, reverse side.



In cooperation with San Francisco State University and Merkel and Associates, Inc.



Buoy locations.