

Shellfish Aquaculture Best Management Practices (BMPs)
Tomales Bay Meeting
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**Notes transcribed from flip charts captured during the meeting by Susan Ashcraft, Marine Advisor to the CA Fish and Game Commission, and Randy Lovell, Department of Fish and Wildlife Aquaculture*

Site Selection/Access

- Recreational access
- Navigational access
- Buffers
- Clear boundary marking
- Set minimum level
- Perimeter buffers for navigation

Materials, Operations, and Maintenance

- Education/Training
- Solid waste management
- Operational discipline
- Split out human uses
- Consider off-lease considerations
- Off-lease gear/vessel practices to account for habitat, species, other users

Maintaining Environmental Quality

- Align with but not duplicate standards set or reviewed elsewhere
- Set a minimum acceptable level
- Essential fish habitat and other sensitive habitats
- Special status and keystone species
- Eelgrass – use habitat maps and add a habitat boundary buffer
 - NOAA eelgrass mitigation policy tool

Disease Prevention

- Require use of sterile oyster seed for some non-natives
- Managing risk of naturalization of non-native cultivars
- Adherence to established standards is assumed

General

- Could adopt a standard set of BMPs as well as areas of specialization
- Baseline data on percent of bays in lease to inform discussion

- Frame of reference
- GOAL – aim high, set benchmarks
 - Measurable and enforceable standards
- Global – evaluate
 - Cumulative impacts including off the lease
 - Lessons from Humboldt
 - Carrying capacity
- Suggest regional plans that at minimum map known use areas, known habitats to safeguard, etc. to help define inappropriate citing of farms
- Define outcomes you are targeting with BMPs

Parking Lot

- Financial surety
 - Lease renewals
 - New lease applications
 - Leases outside Commission authority
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- Define native vs. non-native vs. invasive
 - Setbacks – siting of equipment
 - Greater Farallons National Marine Sanctuary GIS – including aquaculture leases and moorings
 - Legacy debris removal
 - Interagency disclosure for easier public review
 - Enforcement and consequences; feedback from metrics
 - Carrying capacity, zone/MSP
 - Marking improved for navigation (buffers)
 - Role of permitting process (including CEQA/NEPA) vs. BMPs
 - Value of outreach/education for general public
 - Aim high (standards)
 - Measurable is important (e.g. enforced)
 - Performance-based planning
 - Ecological vs. human use (impacts) on and off lease
 - Need more time to discuss (too much depth to cover)