



# Eelgrass Restoration and Conservation Mooring Funding Opportunity

## WHAT

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP) uses state and federal mitigation funds to award competitive grants for projects that protect and restore natural resources across Maine. The 2021 funding contains funds specifically dedicated to eelgrass restoration in southern Maine.

**The 2021 funding round will open on May 26, 2021 with Letters of Intent due by June 30, 2021.** Applicants whose proposed projects meet the program's requirements will be invited to submit full proposals, usually by September.





## RELATED ITEMS OF INTEREST

Read more about our services and capabilities on our website:

- [Environmental Services](#)
- [Ecosystems](#)
- [Climate Change Risk Assessments](#)
- [Coastal and Marine Services](#)

## WHY

Eelgrass provides important ecosystem functions in Casco Bay, including foraging areas and shelter to young fish and invertebrates, food for migratory waterfowl, production of oxygen, improvement water quality by filtering polluted runoff, absorption of excess nutrients, storing of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, and protection the shoreline from erosion by reducing wave energy.

Traditional block and chain mooring located in eelgrass have been identified by state and federal natural resource agencies as one of the stressors to eelgrass in Casco Bay. As the traditional mooring chain drags on the bottom, a mooring scar is created within eelgrass beds. Conservation moorings are an alternative to traditional block and chain moorings that utilize a helical anchor and tether system, eliminating bottom chain and associated eelgrass impacts. **Conservation moorings have been successfully installed as alternative to traditional moorings to restore eelgrass beds in New England.**



## HOW

Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) has extensive experience with eelgrass restoration and monitoring and can assist municipalities with the proposal process, restoration planning, eelgrass monitoring and annual reporting. **The MNRCP grant is a prime opportunity for local municipalities to significantly offset the cost and installation of conservation moorings in their towns as they maintain and replace old moorings, while really benefitting local eelgrass and the biological communities in your harbor.**

The grant program typically requires 5 years of monitoring associated with eelgrass recovery in the scar area and the Stantec Scientific Dive Team is uniquely qualified to complete these underwater surveys with experience conducting eel grass surveys throughout New England.



## CONTACT US

**Stantec is actively seeking local municipal teaming partners to apply for an MNRCP grant, an effort which Stantec would lead utilizing our in-house marketing and technical writing services.**

Please contact us if you are interested in discussing potential eelgrass projects associated with the MNRCP grant opportunity.

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