*Science for Solutions*

**NOAA COASTAL OCEAN PROGRAM**
Decision Analysis Series No. 12

# *Guidelines for the Conservation and Restoration of Seagrasses in the United States and Adjacent Waters*

**Mark S. Fonseca,**
**W. Judson Kenworthy, and**
**Gordon W. Thayer**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
**National Marine Fisheries Service**
**Southeast Fisheries Science Center**
**Beaufort Laboratory**
**101 Pivers Island Road**
**Beaufort, North Carolina 28516-9722**

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# Note to Readers

*Guidelines for the Conservation and Restoration of Seagrasses in the United States and Adjacent Waters* was developed by Mark Fonseca of NOAA's Beaufort Laboratory, along with Jud Kenworthy and Gordon Thayer, with funding from NOAA's Coastal Ocean Program. The document presents an overview of the current state of seagrass conservation and restoration in the United States, discusses important issues that should be addressed in planning seagrass restoration projects, describes different planting methodologies, proposes monitoring criteria and means for evaluating success, and discusses issues faced by resource managers.

The Coastal Ocean Program (COP) provides a focal point through which NOAA, together with other organizations with responsibilities for the coastal environment and its resources, can make significant strides toward finding solutions to critical problems. By working together toward these solutions, we can ensure the sustainability of these coastal resources and allow for compatible economic development that will enhance the well-being of the Nation now and in future generations. The goals of the program parallel those of the NOAA Strategic Plan.

A specific objective of the COP is to provide the highest quality scientific information to coastal managers in time for critical decision making and in formats useful for these decisions. To help achieve this, the COP inaugurated a program of developing documents that would synthesize information on issues that were of high priority to coastal managers. As a contribution to the Decision Analysis Series, this report provides a critical synthesis of the methods for planning, planting, monitoring, and evaluating seagrass restoration projects. A list of available documents in the Decision Analysis Series can be found on the inside back cover.

As with all of its products, the COP is very interested in ascertaining the utility of the Decision Analysis Series, particularly in regard to its application to the management decision process. Therefore, we encourage you to write, fax, call, or E-mail us with your comments. Please be assured that we will appreciated these comments, either positive or negative, and that they will help us direct our future efforts. Our address and telephone and fax numbers are on the inside front cover. My Internet address is COASTALOCEAN@COP.NOAA.GOV.

David Johnson
Acting Director
NOAA Coastal Ocean Program

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