

Drakes Bay Oyster Company

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November 15, 2010

Natalie Gates
DBOC SUP EIS

Dear Natalie,

Re: 1 – Vessel Transit Plan

Drakes Bay Oyster Company will make every effort adhere to the following protocols for vessel usage in Drakes Estero. As it is required for Drakes Bay Oyster Company to access Drakes Estero during low tides, regular boat traffic will be limited to the routes identified on attached map during low tides while eelgrass is present in Drakes Estero. These routes are necessary for the required minimum access to accomplish water quality and marine biotoxin monitoring for Drakes Estero. Individual growing areas will not be accessed during low tide unless it is necessary for planting, managing or harvesting. No boat mooring will occur in eelgrass beds. Drakes Bay Oyster Company train all boat operators so that they clearly understand these protocols and are completely familiar to the attached routes before they are allowed to operate a vessel within Drakes Estero (attachment 1a). Handheld GPS units are carried by DBOC staff on boat trips into Drakes Estero. Copies of maps showing DBOC GPS tracks are attached (attachment 1b and 1c)

These protocols are intended to reduce contact with eelgrass from boat motor propellers. Propeller contact with eelgrass blades can only occur during the months that eelgrass is present. Additionally, contact with eelgrass can only be made at or near low tide. During higher tides, the propellers are well above the tops of the eelgrass.

Thank you,

Kevin Lunny

Attachment (1)