

AN ANALYSIS OF EELGRASS TRANSPLANTATION  
PERFORMANCE IN PUGET SOUND, WA.  
1990 - 2000

Mark T. Stamey

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Graduate School

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Mark T. Stamey

and have found that it is complete and satisfactory in all respects, and that nay and all revisions required by the final examining committee have been made.

Committee Members:

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Terrie Klinger

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Robert Goodwin

---

Jeffery Cordell

---

Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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University of Washington

Abstract

# An Analysis of Eelgrass Transplantation Performance in Puget Sound, WA. 1990 – 2000

Mark T. Stamey

Professor Terrie Klinger, Chair  
School of Marine Affairs

Eelgrass transplantation is often proposed, and has been widely adopted in the US as a compensatory mitigation (CM) technique in order to avoid a loss of habitat. A 1990 review of eelgrass transplantation projects in the Pacific Northwest showed that some of the transplanted eelgrass survived in 65% of those projects, but concluded it was premature to use eelgrass transplantation as a reliable CM technique without further research. The objective of this study was to follow a stepwise process to evaluate the continued use of eelgrass transplantation as a compensatory mitigation technique in Puget Sound. I collected information from fifteen distinct eelgrass transplantation efforts in Puget Sound between 1990 and 2000. The success of individual transplantations was highly variable, between as well as within individual transplantation efforts. The high variability and moderate level of overall success (13-80%, depending on the metric used) suggests that eelgrass transplantation has not reached a point where it can be reliably used as a compensatory mitigation technique in Puget Sound. However, I found that 13% of the projects reviewed achieved or exceeded success in all the metrics that were applied, demonstrating that eelgrass transplantation can be successful in some cases.

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*In the words of the boys,  
"AND DONE!"*