



# Eelgrass Seed Transfer Best Management Practices Workshop and Guidance Document

# Workshop Planning Subgroup

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- Chris Patrick (VA Institute of Marine Science)
- Brooke Landry (MD DNR)
- Brad Peterson (Stony Brook Univ.)
- Steve Schott (Cornell Univ.)
- Randall Hughes (Northeastern Univ.)
- Phil Colarusso (EPA)

# ACFHP SAV Seed-Transfer Guidance Document

- Developing a Guidance Document on interstate and regional seed-transfer practices for SAV, focusing primarily on *Zostera marina* (eelgrass), as well as *Ruppia maritima* (widgeongrass).
- Will compile and synthesize the latest science and BMPs to support seed-based research, restoration, and management.
- Serves as a resource for agencies and organizations considering policy or regulatory decisions.
- Developed through a multi-step process:
  1. Literature review and synthesis
  2. *Zosterapalooza Secession*
  3. Invitational workshop (ACFHP-hosted)

# Process & Preparation

## Step 1: Literature Review and Synthesis

- ACFHP will release a RFP seeking contractor(s) to conduct a literature review and produce a report that summarizes and synthesizes info:
  - frameworks for assisted migration and local adaptation of species (including from other systems),
  - seed collection, storage, handling, and transfer practices,
  - other topics as identified by the workshop planning and the dedicated session as Zosterapalooza
- Please let Simen know if you can help distribute

# Process & Preparation

## Step 2: *Zosterapalooza* Session (March 26, 2026)

- Day two of the **35'th annual Zosterapalooza (March 25-26, 2025), Boston, MA**
- Session includes scientific presentations and discussion aimed at large scale seed-based restoration
  - Including challenges, questions, and potential BMPs.
  - These BMPs will be further developed and evaluated at the invitational workshop into the Guidance Document.

# Process & Preparation

## Step 3: Invitational Workshop (Fall 2026)

- GOAL: Refine and finalize BMPs for inclusion in Guidance Document.
- OBJECTIVES:
  - To review information and draft BMP concepts identified and developed at Zosterapalooza and finalize BMP recommendations for inclusion in the Guidance Document.
- EXPECTED OUTCOMES:
  - Detailed workshop summary report (finalized within a month of the workshop)
  - ACFHP Guidance Document (finalized a few months after workshop)
  - Publication in a journal (1-2 years after workshop)

# Workshop Logistics

## Tentative Timing:

- Late September – Early November 2026 (1–2 days)
- Avoid overlap with ASMFC Annual Meeting and other regional conferences and meetings

## Location Criteria:

- East Coast site
- Low- or no-cost venue and affordable lodging options

## Format & Participation:

- Plenary and breakout sessions, with optional listen-only online access
- ~30 invited experts (state managers, researchers, restoration practitioners, ACFHP members)

## Support & Facilitation:

- Contracted facilitation to keep sessions focused and productive



**Thanks!**

