

Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR) & Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP)

present a virtual exchange on Friday, August 24, 2018
on

The Biology, Monitoring, and Restoration of Eelgrass at Elkhorn Slough and Morro Bay

(see GoToMeeting webinar connection info below)

Background: Given their shared roles as major estuaries within California's Central Coast region, Elkhorn Slough and Morro Bay estuary programs are interested in more information exchanges to build their respective capacities and better inform their research, monitoring, restoration, and outreach efforts.

Both programs chose the subject of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) – especially its monitoring and restoration – as an initial topic to jointly explore, both through presentations (webinars) and a subsequent practitioners' discussion of best practices with respect to eelgrass mapping, restoration, and monitoring.

Exchange objectives:

- Enhance the understanding by participants of the value of eelgrass and its ecological dynamics in the two estuaries.
- Compare how eelgrass is being monitored and restored at these two sites.
- Strengthen professional networking between ESNERR and MBNEP

Agenda:

Part 1: Presentations

(ESNERR venue: Administrative Conference Room)

09:00 **Welcome & Intro (Mark Silberstein, ED, Elkhorn Slough Foundation)**

09:10 **Elkhorn Slough**

Past eelgrass research (Kerstin Wasson, Research Coordinator, ESNERR)

Current ecology, monitoring, and restoration (Kat Beheshti, PhD candidate, UCSC)

10:00 ***Break***

10:10 **Morro Bay**

Welcome & Intro (Lexie Bell, ED, MBNEP)

Eelgrass monitoring (Karissa Willits, Monitoring Coordinator)

Eelgrass restoration (Carolyn Geraghty, Restoration Projects Manager)

Education & outreach (Rachel Pass, Communications & Outreach Coordinator)

11:00 **Q & A (all speakers)**

11:10 ***Presentation wrap-up***

Part 2: Practitioners' Discussion

11:20 **Practitioner intros**

11:25 **More discussion of eelgrass mapping, restoration methods, & restoration monitoring methods!**

12:15 ***discussion wrap-up***

Webinar connection info for the Elkhorn-Morro Bay Exchange:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/459003341>

If you haven't done this before, you'll need to download and install a small GoToMeeting app as part of the process, so give yourself a few extra minutes for that.

Then, when joining the webinar, please select **phone connection** for audio and follow the call-in instructions.

As a backup:

Dial (in US): **+1 (872) 240-3412**

Access Code: **459-003-341#**

First GoToMeeting? Let's do a quick system check:

<https://link.gotomeeting.com/system-check>

A note about the Coastal Training Program, ESNERR:

The Elkhorn-Morro Bay Exchange is being facilitated by ESNERR's Coastal Training Program (CTP). With support from NOAA, the CTP works to improve stewardship of lands, waters, and biodiversity across California's Central Coast region by offering technical assistance and educational programs that (1) help bridge the gaps in understanding among scientists, land managers, regulators, and other stakeholders, (2) foster dialogue within and across these groups, and (3) build community support for coastal sustainability.

All CTP events are evaluated by participants, and we (and our NOAA funders) look at these evaluations carefully to help us improve our programs, so please help us by filling out a short (!) evaluation afterwards, either online or on-paper. Thanks!