

1 SUCH PLAN SHALL BE DEVELOPED AFTER CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS,
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF RECREATIONAL BOATING INTERESTS, THE MARINE INDUSTRY,
3 AFFECTED PROPERTY OWNERS, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, SO AS TO EFFECTIVELY
4 MANAGE AND PROTECT SEAGRASS BEDS AND SEAGRASS RESTORATION EFFORTS. SUCH
5 PLANS SHALL, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION, THE
6 GOALS OF EXISTING ESTUARY PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION, SEAGRASS MANAGEMENT
7 PLANS SHALL SEEK TO PRESERVE TRADITIONAL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES,
8 INCLUDING RECREATIONAL BOATING AND MARINA OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS FINF-
9 ISHING, SHELLFISHING AND TOURISM WHILE ENSURING SUCH ACTIVITIES DO NOT
10 THREATEN SEAGRASS BEDS OR NEGATE SEAGRASS RESTORATION EFFORTS.

11 3. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT RULES AND REGU-
12 LATIONS TO REGULATE COASTAL AND MARINE ACTIVITIES THAT THREATEN SEAGRASS
13 BEDS OR SEAGRASS RESTORATION EFFORTS.

14 4. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT THE USE OF
15 MECHANICAL-POWERED FISHING OR SHELLFISHING GEAR WHICH MAY IMPACT SEAG-
16 RASS BEDS, INCLUDING CHURNING, DREDGES, RAKES AND TONGS.

17 5. THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
18 AND MARKETS, SHALL IDENTIFY PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES THAT ARE TOXIC TO
19 SEAGRASS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING RESTRICTING THEIR USE IN
20 COASTAL AREAS.

21 6. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IDENTIFY WATER QUALITY IMPACTS SUCH AS NITRO-
22 GEN POLLUTION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO MINIMIZE SUCH IMPACTS.

23 7. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF
24 SEAGRASS PROTECTION AND THE STATUS OF SEAGRASS RESTORATION EFFORTS
25 AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE.

26 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred fiftieth day after
27 it shall have become a law.