

Hazelett Marine encourages the private boating and commercial fishing industries to become involved as a partnership to keep the water environment healthy and viable. This is the environment you enjoy being around and make a living from.

"Fish and shellfish which depend on eelgrass for all or part of their life cycle account for a multimillion dollar industry in Washington, Chatham, MA; Newport, RI; New Bedford, MA; Jamestown, RI; Bermuda; Florida; Maine; Connecticut;..."

Jason Hale, a biologist with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences on sea grass: "There are about a half dozen function that scientists credit to sea grass, Hale said, "One of them is habitat, a place to hide or to live or forage. Another is food for a variety of marine creatures. And sea grasses help improve water clarity by filtering particles from the water around them."

"A more immediate threat to sea grass comes from the proliferation of boat anchoring. The act of setting down and then pulling up an anchor tears the sea grass up by the roots and destroys the rhizomes, making recovery slow and difficult. Worse yet, when anchors are set improperly, they may drag, causing widespread damage. Moreover, as an anchored boat swings around in the wind, the anchor chain is dragged over the sea floor in an arc, destroying all the grass in its path." from "Sea Grasses" St. John Beach Guide.com

Chatham, MA, has approved the eco-friendly elastic mooring system for use in the town-controlled waters to promote a healthy environment for the benthic marine life and a brighter economic future for the fishing industry in New England.

"Mooring--specifically mooring chains--impact eelgrass throughout Massachusetts, either through direct disturbance or by increased turbidity by the chains bouncing on the bottom (which is bad for eelgrass)."
Anthony R. Wilbur, Marine Ecologist
MA Office of Coastal Zone Management

