



Map of eelgrass biodiversity surveys (blue) and eelgrass disease surveys (red) in False Bay Pocket and Middle Bays, summer 2016.

The eelgrass bed is present under most of the blue arrows where the biodiversity surveys were conducted. The red arrows represent the locations of the replicated eel grass health surveys conducted in the eel grass bed.

The significantly high levels of wasting disease in the eel grass in this Pocket Bay relative to the two other areas surveyed in False Bay (detailed in False Bay Seagrass Report) are typical of the higher risk of poor health in sheltered embayments. Sheltered embayments can have higher levels of disease since temperatures can be warmer and water flow is reduced. Such embayments are more fragile ecosystems than wave-exposed coastlines.

Although the dock will not be on top of the eelgrass meadow, its effects in a sheltered embayment are likely to reach the eel grass bed. Similarly, depending on the location of the hypersaline outfall, hypersaline waters could easily impact eelgrass regions of the Pocket Bay under certain tidal conditions.