

Salt Marsh Response & Resilience to Changing Conditions: Prospects for Management

Thursday, April 26, 2018 | 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel, NH

There is compelling evidence that New England coastal ecosystems face mounting challenges from pervasive anthropogenic stressors. Sea level rise, in particular, degrades salt marsh by altering hydrology, salinity regimes and erosive forces. Southern New England salt marshes are among the most vulnerable in the country; a review and assessment of ecological response and resilience mechanisms of these important ecosystems is timely and critical to their future.

To build capacity for improved conservation and to guide more effective management and adaptation strategies for New England salt marshes, the New England National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRS) host this regional workshop in conjunction with the New England Estuarine Research Society's (NEERS) 2018 spring meeting. Participants will discuss the impacts of sea level rise on salt marshes and explore steps to sustain their capacity to adapt and maintain resilience in the context of inevitable change.

Objectives:

- Describe the effects of sea level rise and related stressors on New England salt marshes as documented through research and monitoring efforts
- Discuss management/adaptation/recovery/restoration practices and lessons learned from projects throughout the region
- Explore monitoring and assessment strategies of proposed and implemented actions
- Identify coordination, collaboration, and partnership opportunities

Agenda

8:30 am Registration and refreshments

9:30 am Welcome and overview Jennifer West, Narragansett Bay NERR

Salt marsh sustainability in New England: progress and remaining challenges Cathy Wigand, EPA

How are coastal marshes faring in New England?

Coastal wetland loss in Rhode Island: 1850s-present

Beth Watson, Drexel University

Marsh impairment and future considerations: a Massachusetts overview

Marc Carullo, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management

Maine: state of the State's salt marshes

Susan Adamowicz, USFWS

Prospects and uncertainties for tidal marshes in New Hampshire

Dave Burdick, University of New Hampshire

Long Island Sound tidal marshes in the Anthropocene

Scott Warren, Connecticut College Temple Professor Emeritus of Botany

Break

How are we building coastal marsh resilience throughout the region?

No management is active management: a regional evaluation of salt marsh conservation and restoration opportunities in a changing climate

Rachel Stevens, Great Bay NERR

A soils/landscape perspective to salt marsh migration

Mark Stolt, URI

Upland vegetation removal as a potential strategy for facilitating salt marsh migration

Kenny Raposa, Narragansett Bay NERR

Increasing salt marsh surface elevations as an adaptation strategy- will it work in New England?

Caitlin Chaffee, RI Coastal Resources Management Council

Ditch remediation pilot studies in National Wildlife Refuges of the Northeast

Dave Burdick, UNH

Marsh response to shallow drainage or runnels

Wenley Ferguson, Save The Bay

1:00 pm Lunch

What monitoring and assessment strategies are being used in the region?

Long-term tidal wetland changes at Barn Island, Stonington, CT

Ron Rozsa, plant community ecologist

Overview of salt marsh losses on Cape Cod, with special emphasis on crab-driven vegetation losses and consequences

Steve Smith, National Park Service

Multimetric indices for integrated assessments of salt marsh integrity

Hilary Neckles, United States Geological Survey

Drone applications for estuarine monitoring and assessment

Bob Hartzel, Comprehensive Environmental Inc.

Appropriate use of numerical models for simulating salt marsh geomorphic evolution

Neil Ganju, United States Geological Survey

Break

Group discussion

Wrap-up

4:30 pm Adjourn



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Research Reserve



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Research Reserve



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