



Salt Marsh Priority Resource Conservation Targets and Metrics

Extent (includes loss to mangroves and encroachment into freshwater marshes)

- Acres/hectares
- Acres of marsh die-off
- Distribution within historic ranges

Contiguosness

- Percent cover
- Average size of parcel/patch size
- Proximity to urban development (sea walls, nutrient runoff, boat wakes)

Connectivity (lack of fragmentation, patch size)

- Acres isolated from estuaries
- Acres isolated from other salt marsh
- Management of connectivity

Erosion (lack of, including boat wakes and storms)

- Escarpments
- Calving/peat collapse

Long-term stability (in terms of SLR, resiliency to range shifts of mangroves)

- Buffer zone for inland migration
- Evidence of drowning
- Rates of accretion vs local SLR

Hydrology (altered, sheet flow)

- Control of tidal cycle by changing delivery from upstream sources
- Unimpeded freshwater flows
- Diversions
- Lack of mosquito ditching
- Lack of impounded areas
- Lack of concentrated freshwater flow
- Lack of roads

Faunal assemblage (key indicators: diamondback terrapin, red drum, spotted sea trout, topwater minnow, killifish, rails, seaside sparrow, salt marsh sparrow, invertebrates, salt marsh snake, snails, fiddler crabs, ribbed mussels, fringing oyster)

- Trends in abundance
- Species diversity index
- Successful nests (terrapins)



Benthic community health

- Benthic invertebrate index
- Particulate organic carbon

Fish (key indicators: mummichog, killifish, mosquitofish)

- Presence/absence
- Density

Fiddler crabs

- Abundance
- Density