"Comparing Salt Marsh Ecosystem Responses to Different Restoration Techniques".

Jim Dobberstine _{1,2} and Cynthia Howard ₃ Lee College₁, The Galveston Bay Foundation₂, The University of Houston Clear Lake₃

Abstract

Coastal marsh ecosystems anchored by smooth cordgrass (Spartina alterniflora) are some of the most highly productive ecologic communities that provide a number of ecologically critical functions and services. In response to substantial loss of these ecosystems over the past 50 years, active restoration of numerous coastal wetland systems has been undertaken. Studies indicate that there may be a need to evaluate created and restored marshes to determine success at the functional level and tailor restoration strategies accordingly. This study focused on the Pierce Marsh complex, a series of restored wetlands within the lower Galveston Bay watershed, and examined whether functional differences are achieved through different marsh restoration techniques. Differences were noted among the restored sites, and between the restored sites and the reference site.