

TIDAL MARSH SEMINAR – Discussion questions for chapters 8 and 9

10/12/12

1. Small experiments investigating the effects of nitrogen addition on plant biomass – may be a misrepresentation of ecological processes at larger spatial scales. How can we extrapolate what could happen at larger scales?
2. If homeowners are “farming *Phragmites*” by cutting woody vegetation and replacing it with watered and fertilized grass, should science be implemented into policy on regional scales? Other than preserving woody buffers that border undisturbed marshes, what other management tools can be implemented to preserve New England salt marsh plant and animal communities?
3. What important ecosystem services are lost when tidal restrictions are in place?
4. Ditching has shown to decrease some mosquito populations and provide more aquatic habitat for fish. Are there other positive effects of ditching? How has the increased tidal flux from ditching affect sedimentation and erosion? What does waterlogging do to salt marsh forb pannes, areas of marsh with high diversity and low density plant cover?
5. From your own study sites, have you noticed if/how anthropogenic alterations have impacted your species of interest?
6. Overall, what are some effective conservation measures to rebuild North Eastern salt marshes?