

Salt Marsh Die Back and Loss- Discussion Questions:

1. Is it normal for small areas of marsh to die off, and then be re-colonized by the same or different vegetation types?
2. It is difficult to distinguish naturally occurring die-off from early stage marsh die-back, however, it is essential to catch the signs of die-back in the early stages. How can this difficulty be reconciled?
3. Has anyone seen dieback on their marshes? What are your theories on which primary or secondary causes are responsible at your location?
4. It is difficult to determine if interactive causes of die off are additive or multiplicative. How can we tease apart the relationship between synergistic causes of die-off? Is it important that we do so in light of Breitburg et al. 1997's assertion that regardless of the number of stressors operating on the dominant species in a system, the response will be the same? Do we agree?
5. How do you feel about the estimates of marsh loss presented in chapter 13? Do you think they overestimate or underestimate marsh loss in North America?
6. Can we extrapolate regional estimates from 1 or 2 local scale studies? Is there a more accurate way to establish baselines?
7. In addition to measuring total marsh conversion, should we also include varying degrees of marsh degradation into these estimates? How could this be accomplished?