

Community Wrack Monitoring Project

The Skidaway Institute of Oceanography has been funded by the Georgia Coastal Zone Management Program to assess the distribution of wrack in the salt marshes of coastal Georgia. We are mapping the distribution for a number of different years from aerial photographs to determine how much wrack is present in coastal Georgia and where wrack is found in different seasons. One additional issue that we want to address is how long wrack persists in a variety of marsh settings. To do that, we want to enlist the interested public to help us in documenting marsh wrack sites.

Purpose:

To document sites where wrack repeatedly accumulates annually (based on prior experience) or where wrack presently exists, and to determine how long it persists at these sites by photographing the site over time. We need to have data from a range of site types, from natural to man-made, so that we can assess wrack persistence over a wide range of situations:

- Natural marsh-upland boundaries
- Open marsh
- Causeways
- Docks

Protocol:

- 1) Identify site or sites that you can document at least weekly. You can take photos more frequently if you wish, as that will tighten up our determination of when the wrack is removed. If you have a site that you know accumulates wrack each year, but which has not yet accumulated any, you can monitor it for this project. Just start taking pictures right away so that we have documentation of when it accumulates.
- 2) Gather latitude/longitude location data for each site so that I can create a map showing sites around the state to share with everyone involved in the project (use a handheld GPS, cellphone GPS, or locate the site as accurately as you can in Google Earth). If you need help with this, we will work with you to gather the location data with our lab GPS.
- 3) Send me an email (clark.alexander@skio.usg.edu) with the general site description, latitude/longitude, and your contact information. I will return an email with my sincere gratitude and a site number for you to use in identifying your site.
- 4) Take a photo of the wrack, all of it preferably contained in one photo, showing the whole package and its boundaries, once a week, from the same location. If the wrack package is too large to get into one photo, please take several photos, using the same method each week (i.e., from left to right or right to left). If you want to collect additional information (e.g., wrack package dimensions, if it moves location at every high tide, etc.), feel free to do so and email me the information.
- 5) Rename your photo with the site name I give you and the date the photo was taken and email it to me (clark.alexander@skio.usg.edu)
- 6) Send me an email when the wrack is removed from your site(s).
- 7) Continue to take photographs of site(s) until December, 2011.

Thanks for your help, and anyone who helps out will get a copy on the final results of the study and acknowledgement of their help in the text.

Any questions, just contact:

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