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# 2001 Baseline Wetland Vegetation Monitoring for the Poplar Island Restoration Project

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**2001 BASELINE WETLAND VEGETATION MONITORING  
FOR THE POPLAR ISLAND RESTORATION PROJECT**

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**Prepared For:**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District**

**Prepared By:**

**Jason K. Miller  
Dan Murphy**

**Under Supervision Of:**

**Bob Zepp, Permits and Federal Activities Program Leader  
John P. Wolflin, Supervisor**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Chesapeake Bay Field Office  
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objectives of the Poplar Island restoration project in Chesapeake Bay are to create wetland and upland island habitats by restoring the eroded island with dredged material from Baltimore's shipping-channel complex. Project planners anticipate creating approximately 550 acres of saltmarsh within the historic island footprint. Evaluations of wetland creation success may differ depending upon the evaluation criteria used. For this project, it was concluded that data collections must consider both the structure and function of representative natural wetlands when comparing the Poplar Island constructed wetlands with natural ecosystems. The vegetation data presented herein represents one of the wetland criteria identified as part of a multifaceted monitoring program designed to assess an array of wetland and habitat functions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began monitoring several reference marshes in the Poplar Island complex and along the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay in September of 1996. That monitoring study was intended to establish a body of local saltmarsh vegetation information to be used in evaluation of the future wetlands created on a restored Poplar Island. The 2001 iteration was intended to further define and update the baseline reference marsh conditions while comparing to those described by the 1996 study. Using a system of fixed transects, eight reference marshes were sampled in August 2001. From the data gathered, indices describing vegetative cover, stem height variation, and plant species diversity were calculated to illustrate vegetation patterns apparent in the local saltmarsh communities.

As expected, there were differences in vegetation parameters between low marsh and high marsh zones of our reference sites. Among our results from the 2001 sampling episode, we found that saltmarsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) was the dominant plant species in the low marsh zone, with saltmeadow hay (*Spartina patens*) a secondary dominant species. Within the high marsh zone, *S. patens* was the overwhelming dominant species, but common reed (*Phragmites australis*), saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), *S. alterniflora*, and high tide bush (*Iva frutescens*) were also important community components. We also found that the plant community in the high marsh zone had greater diversity than in the low marsh zone. Stem heights varied from site-to-site for most species analyzed. The information yielded represents a furtherance of understanding of naturally-occurring wetland systems in the vicinity of Poplar Island that will be valuable in mid-course corrections and evaluations necessary for the success of the restoration project.

Additional information could facilitate the application of this information in adaptive management of constructed wetlands on Poplar Island and in design prescription of future projects. Linking the detailed vegetation community information directly to elevational positioning in the marsh landscape would create a more intuitively-applicable, visually-accessible representation of local saltmarsh vegetation. Establishing connections between vegetation community variation and marsh elevations would make monitoring study products more readily applicable to design and mid-course correction guidance. Future monitoring should include microtopographical elevation determinations.



## INTRODUCTION

The Poplar Island restoration project, located in Chesapeake Bay off Tilghman Island in Talbot County, Maryland (Figure 1), was undertaken as a cooperative solution addressing the problems of dredged material disposal and island erosion. Records from the 1670's describe Poplar Island as 1,400 acres in size, though it may have once covered 2,000 acres. By the 1990's less than 10 acres of disjunct remnants remained of Poplar Island itself (Leatherman et al. 1995), with less than 125 acres remaining of the island complex that includes Poplar, Coaches and Jefferson Islands. The restoration project is using dredged material from the Baltimore shipping channel complex to reestablish an approximately 1,100-acre island within the historic footprint of Poplar Island. Fifty percent of the reestablished island will be constructed at elevations suitable for the creation of wetlands. In order to make appropriate design and management prescriptions for these created wetlands, it was necessary to develop a body of structure and function information for local, representative wetlands.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) participates in an interagency Poplar Island monitoring task force. In addition to the wetland monitoring described in this report, submerged aquatic vegetation is being monitored by the Service, wildlife usage by the U.S. Geological Survey, and fisheries usage by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Together, these multi-year efforts will enable Federal and State agencies to guide and judge the success of restoration measures at Poplar Island.

In September of 1996, the Service began monitoring saltmarsh vegetation in the remnant marshes of Poplar Island, Coaches Island and in marshes on the mainland north of Tilghman Island. The objectives of this initial sampling were to estimate baseline marsh community structure information such as plant cover dominance, diversity, and above ground biomass. The objectives of the 2001 monitoring episode were to update this baseline information while allowing interannual comparison by replicating the 1996 effort. Ultimately, the reference marsh information will be compared to the conditions in the newly-created Poplar Island saltmarshes to test for differences in community structure parameters as a measure of wetland creation success and stability.

The wetlands being sampled in this monitoring study include the following types from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's classification system (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979):

Estuarine, Intertidal, Emergent, Narrow-leaved Persistent, Regularly Tidal  
Estuarine, Intertidal, Emergent, Narrow-leaved Persistent, Irregularly Tidal  
Estuarine, Intertidal, Beach/Bar, Regularly Tidal

These communities are characterized by species such as smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), saltmeadow hay (*Spartina patens*), salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*), black needlerush (*Juncus roemerianus*), and threesquare (*Schoenoplectus americanus*), with lesser amounts of high tide bush (*Iva frutescens*) and common reed (*Phragmites australis*). Mean tidal range within the study area is 0.5 meters, with salinity ranges from a minimum of approximately 5ppt in Spring to 18ppt in

Autumn. Throughout this report, comparisons will be made between low marsh community parameters and high marsh community parameters. These two zones are typical of Chesapeake Bay salt marshes. Low marsh refers to the zone inundated twice daily by the lunar tidal cycle and high marsh refers to the zone inundated on a less regular and frequent basis (Gill and McGowan 1998).

## METHODS

Methodologies for saltmarsh vegetation sampling were adapted from “A Manual for Assessing Restored and Natural Coastal Wetlands” (PERL 1990), and “Field and Laboratory Methods for General Ecology” (Brower and Zar 1984). In the 1996 monitoring episode, four sites were selected within the remnant Poplar Island and Coaches Island complexes. An additional five sites were selected outside the influence of Poplar Island, on the mainland between Knapps Narrows and Harbor Cove. Sites used for vegetative measurements corresponded to areas used by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for fyke net sampling for aquatic fauna. Latitude and longitude of each sampling site was determined using Global Positioning System (GPS). Coordinates of sampling locations are in Appendix A. In 2001, three sites were dropped from the study and two sites were added. Monitoring at Middle Poplar Island, North Point Island, and South Central Poplar Island was discontinued because they are now located within the project construction footprint. A second site was added on Front Creek (Front Creek “A”) and a new site was established at Back Creek. Both new sites correspond to 2001 NMFS fyke net stations. Table 1 includes sampling site letter codes used in this report and Figure 2 details the location of the eight 2001 reference marshes in the study area.

Table 1. Letter codes and study status for wetland vegetation monitoring sites.

SITE NAME	CODE	Status in Vegetation Monitoring Study	See Figure #
Back Creek	BAC	added and first sampled 2001	4
Cabin Cove	CAC	sampled in 1996 and 2001	5
Coaches Island	COI	sampled in 1996 and 2001	6
Front Creek	FRC	sampled in 1996 and 2001	7
Front Creek “A”	FRCA	added and first sampled 2001	8
Harbor Cove	HAC	sampled in 1996 and 2001	9
Knapps Narrows	KNN	sampled in 1996 and 2001	10
Lowes Point	LOP	sampled in 1996 and 2001	11
Middle Poplar Island	MPI	sampled 1996, now w/in constructed island	n/a
North Point Island	NPI	sampled 1996, now w/in constructed island	n/a
South Central Poplar	SCI	sampled 1996, now w/in constructed island	n/a

The six 1996 reference sites re-sampled in 2001 were located using GPS and reestablished as necessary using PVC poles in preparation for the 2001 monitoring episode. The two new sites were arranged identically to the 1996 sites. At each site, four variable-length permanently-marked transects were established perpendicular to the shoreline, stretching from the water's edge to the upland edge of the marsh. Two central transects at each site corresponded to National Marine Fisheries Service fyke net stations, with the two remaining transects located from 2 to 10m on either side of the central transects. Transects were numbered left to right, 1 through 4, looking from the water into the marsh interior. (See Figure 3 for a representative schematic diagram of the transect layout used at each reference marsh). Figures 4 through 11 illustrate partial layouts of transects overlaid on maps of individual reference marshes.

Along each of the four transects, four, 0.25 m<sup>2</sup> quadrats were used to measure areal coverage and stem height of each plant species present (Figure 3). Quadrats were positioned at 2m from the water's edge (Quadrat 1), 2m channelward of the low/high marsh edge (Quadrat 2), 2m landward of the low/high marsh edge (Quadrat 3), and 2m channelward of the upland edge (Quadrat 4). Again, low marsh was defined as predominantly *S. alterniflora* with twice daily inundation by the diurnal tidal cycle. High marsh was represented by less regular inundation and plant species such as *S. patens* and *D. spicata*. Given the micro-topography of many sampling locations, the demarcation between high and low marsh was often subtle. In such cases, wrack lines or other non-dominant species were used for marsh transition delineation and quadrat placement purposes.

Areal cover is an indicator of species dominance in the vegetative community. The 0.25m<sup>2</sup> quadrats were further divided into 0.01m<sup>2</sup> subsections. The number of 0.01m<sup>2</sup> subsections containing an originating stem was recorded for each species within each quadrat. The areal cover was then expressed as the percentage of 0.01m<sup>2</sup> subsections containing each species. Relative areal cover of each species was expressed as the proportion of its areal cover to the total areal cover of all plants in the quadrat.

For the purposes of this monitoring study, stem height can serve as an indicator of the differential productivity of different wetland sites and potentially, differential success of individual species on dredged-material growing substrates vs. local marsh soils. To determine average stem height, five stems for each species found in the 0.25 m<sup>2</sup> quadrats were measured. Stems were selected from the center and each of the four corners of the quadrat.

Cover-segment line-intercept records were made to determine plant community composition. For each transect, a 5 m segment was measured starting at each endpoint (water's edge and upland) and extending into the marsh's interior (Figure 3). The segment beginning at the upland terminus of each transect was used for high marsh composition determination with the waterward segment used for low marsh composition determination. Presence of all plant species was recorded at 50 one-decimeter intervals along each 5m segment and totaled. From this species composition and frequency information, Simpson's Index of Diversity was calculated for each 5m segment sampled. The diversity index is an expression of the number of times pairs of individual plants would have to be taken at random from the entire plant community sampled to

find two of the same species, and is calculated as follows:

$$D_s = 1 - [\sum n_i(n_i - 1) / N(N - 1)]$$

where  $n_i$  is the abundance of each species and  $N$  is the total abundance of all species recorded. Diversity increases as Simpson's Index approaches 1.0.

In addition to vegetation sampling, all invertebrates encountered within the areal cover quadrats were recorded. Counts encompassed the total number of each faunal taxa within the 0.25m<sup>2</sup> quadrat, as well as additional observations of invertebrate and vertebrate sign, including scat, tracks, burrows, etc. Faunal data were collected to enable a general assessment of the dominant invertebrate taxa present in the reference marshes.

A photomonitoring record of site conditions was made at each transect of all reference marshes. A digital photo was taken while standing at the water terminus of each transect and focusing the camera along the transect axis toward the upland terminus. Future photomonitoring iterations will be conducted using the same positioning. At transects with a narrow band of taller vegetation near the water's edge that would otherwise obscure views of the reference marsh, photos were taken from just inside the taller vegetation. Comparing the photomonitoring record from different sampling years will provide a qualitative gauge of stability or change in site conditions, illustrating coarse-scale successional changes. Appendix B contains the photomonitoring record for 2001.

### **Data Analysis**

Wetland vegetation data for each sampling location were entered into Excel computer data files. Analyses of all data was performed using SigmaStat statistical computer software (Jandel 1997). For each sampling location, data was analyzed for the following vegetation parameters: areal cover, relative cover, canopy height, and Simpson's Index of Diversity. Using these parameters, reference marshes were compared within respective low marsh and high marsh zones and between sampling years. Within this framework, our analyses followed a general sequence of a One-Way Analysis of Variance followed by a multiple comparison test. When data was normally distributed, a standard ANOVA was used to detect differences and a Tukey parametric multiple comparison procedure was used to illustrate those differences between sites or other groupings. When data did not meet the assumptions of a normal distribution, a non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis One-Way Analysis of Variance followed by a Student-Newman-Keuls or Dunn's multiple comparison procedure was used. The Student-Newman-Keuls and Dunn's tests are non-parametric analogs of the Tukey test and determine which pairs of ranked medians are significantly different from one another. The Dunn's test is appropriate for comparisons in cases with different sample sizes.

## RESULTS

Wetland vegetation sampling at reference marshes was conducted over a nine-day period in mid-August 2001. The 1996 baseline sampling episode occurred in late September. During the 2001 monitoring period, the main objectives were to update baseline wetland vegetation community parameters while replicating the 1996 sampling effort for the purpose of interannual comparisons. Data analysis will be discussed within the framework of three categories of community indices: percent cover, stem height, and species diversity. Raw data is presented in Appendix C and all SigmaStat statistical runs are presented in Appendix D.

### Percent Cover

Percent vegetative areal cover information was calculated from data collected using the arrays of 0.25m<sup>2</sup> quadrats as described in the Methods section. For each quadrat, the percentage of the quadrat area covered by a given species was defined as the number of 0.01m<sup>2</sup> quadrat subsections occupied by a stem of that species divided by a total of 25 subsections. Data were pooled to yield transect averages, site averages, or aggregate percent cover estimations for low marsh and high marsh zones among all reference marshes. Data from quadrats number 1 and 2 were combined for low marsh cover estimates. Data from quadrats number 3 and 4 were combined for high marsh cover estimates.

Table 2 contains percent areal cover by each plant species calculated for low marsh and high marsh locations within each site. Table 3 contains the same information, recalculated to percent relative areal cover, i.e. coverages within a given combination sum to 100%.

Percent coverages were calculated for each species from combined low marsh data from all reference sites. The average cover by *S. alterniflora* (44.3%), *S. patens* (28.6%), and *J. romerianus* (18.8%) showed these to be the three dominant low marsh species by percent cover (Table 4). Prior to analysis, we performed an arcsine transformation function on the percentage data in an attempt to normalize the distribution. The transformed data still did not meet the assumptions of a normal distribution, so we proceeded with a non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis One-Way Analysis of Variance on Ranks followed by a Student-Newman-Keuls multiple comparison test to determine if the apparent dominance relationships were statistically significant. In this case, the Student-Newman-Keuls multiple comparison procedure was used to determine which pairs of ranks (derived from each species' median rating) were significantly different from one another. The dominance by percent cover of *S. alterniflora* in the low marsh zone was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ), with the secondary dominance of *S. patens* also statistically significant. There were no statistically significant percent cover differences between any of the other species observed. Table 5 details the differences in percent cover ranks by species in the low marsh zone.

In the combined-sites high marsh zone, *S. patens* (61.7%), *D. spicata* (19.6%), and *P. australis* (15.7%) had the three highest average percent coverages. Using the same method as with low marsh coverages, the dominance hierarchy of high marsh species was tested. By assigned rank, and in order, the percent cover by the following species were statistically distinct ( $p < 0.05$ ): *S.*

*patens*, *P. australis*, *D. spicata*, *S. alterniflora*, and *I. frutescens*. All other species had statistically similar percent cover (Table 6).

### Stem Height

From the stem height data collected by measuring the height (in cm) of 5 representative stems of each species observed in each sampling quadrat, we calculated average stem height values for each species for the low and high marsh zones of each site (Table 7).

For analysis of stem height data we chose the 5 species with the greatest percent cover (from Table 4) in both low and high marsh zones. For the low marsh zone those species were: *S. alterniflora*, *S. patens*, *J. romerianus*, *D. spicata*, and *P. australis*. For the high marsh zone the 5 species were: *S. patens*, *D. spicata*, *P. australis*, *S. alterniflora*, and *S. americanus*. To determine if a given species had significantly shorter or taller stem heights in different reference marshes, within the respective high or low marsh zones, we again used a One-Way Analysis of Variance followed by a multiple comparison test. When stem height data did not meet the assumptions of a normal distribution, a non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis One-Way Analysis of Variance followed by a Dunn's multiple comparison procedure was used. As with the Student-Newman-Keuls multiple comparison procedure, Dunn's test determines which pairs of ranks are significantly different from one another, but is appropriate for comparisons with different sample sizes. When stem height data was normally distributed, as in the case of *D. spicata* in the low marsh and *S. patens*, *S. alterniflora*, and *S. americanus* in the high marsh, a Tukey parametric multiple comparison procedure was used to compare sample means between all sites.

Within the low marsh, *S. alterniflora* was significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) shorter (median 53.5 cm) at Cabin Cove than at Lowes Point (median 73.0 cm), Front Creek "A" (median 74.0 cm), and Knapps Narrows (median 70.0). *S. patens* was significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) taller at Lowes Point (median 56.0 cm) than at Back Creek (median 36.0 cm). There were no other differences between sites for *S. patens*. There were no significant differences between sites for *J. romerianus* or *D. spicata* stem heights in the low marsh. For *P. australis*, stem heights were significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) taller at Coaches Island than at Front Creek, but were similar between all other sites.

Within the high marsh, *S. patens* had significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) stem heights at several reference marshes. Stem heights for this species were highest at Harbor Cove and Lowes Point. See Table 8 for a full description of height differences for *S. patens*. There were no significant differences between sites for *D. spicata* or *P. australis* stem heights in the high marsh. *S. alterniflora* was significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) taller (mean 79.2 cm) at Harbor Cove than at either Knapps Narrows (mean 51.9 cm) or Back Creek (mean 61.6 cm). Also, the same species had significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) greater stem heights at Lowes Point (mean 69.9 cm) and Front Creek (mean 66.2 cm) than at Knapps Narrows (mean 51.9 cm). Finally, for *S. americanus*, there were no significant high marsh stem height differences between sites.

When considering differences between species, *P. australis* was the species with the highest median stem heights at all eight sites in the high marsh zone, as expected. In the low marsh there was more variation, with *S. alterniflora*, *P. australis*, and *J. romerianus* frequently exhibiting the greatest stem heights. The stem height observations should be interpreted with caution, as the

combination with a given species' level of coverage dominance may more accurately illustrate a species' influence on marsh structure than stem height information alone.

### **Diversity**

Plant species diversity was calculated from species occurrence data collected along two line-intercept segments per transect. Within each segment, Simpson's Diversity Indices were calculated according to the description in the Methods section. These indices were then combined for estimates of low marsh and high marsh diversity. Observations from the four waterward segments per site were pooled for estimates of low marsh zone diversity, while observations from the four landward segments per site were pooled for estimates of high marsh zone diversity. The resulting diversity indices are presented in Table 9 and Figure 12. A Kruskal-Wallis one-way analysis of variance on ranks was used to detect differences among low marsh diversity indices for all sites as sampled in 2001. There were no significant differences ( $p=0.785$ ), indicating that the low marsh portions of each site had similar plant community diversity in 2001. As in the low marsh, there were no significant differences ( $p=0.237$ ) in diversity among high marsh sites in 2001. We then compared the combined all-sites low marsh zone diversity indices to the combined all-sites high marsh zone diversity indices. The high marsh zone (median 0.69) had a significantly ( $p<0.05$ ) higher level of plant diversity than the low marsh zone (median 0.59) in 2001. This comparison was made using the Student-Newman-Keuls method.

Before comparing 2001 plant diversity levels to those estimated in 1996, we tested for differences within the 1996 sites respective low and high marsh zones. There were no significant differences in plant diversity among 1996 low marsh sites ( $p=0.822$ ) or among 1996 high marsh sites ( $p=0.149$ ). Also, combined low marsh diversity was similar ( $p=0.061$ ) to combined high marsh diversity in 1996.

In comparing 2001 diversity levels to 1996 indices, we first compared low marsh and high marsh zones within each sampling site. There were no significant interannual differences in any of the comparisons made for the six sites in common between the two sampling episodes. Finally, we compared the combined all-sites low marsh zone and combined all-sites high marsh zone diversity indices from 2001 to their 1996 counterparts using Dunn's method. There were no significant differences.

### **Faunal Data**

As described in the Methods, we recorded the abundance of each faunal taxa observed within each sampling quadrat. Detailed statistical analyses were not conducted for these data, but taxa abundance by low and high marsh zones is displayed in Table 10 and illustrated in Figure 13. Raw observations are presented in Appendix E. Two molluscs composed the overwhelming majority of invertebrate observations. In the low marsh, there were similar numbers of marsh periwinkles (genus *Littorina*) and salt marsh snails (genus *Melampus*). In the high marsh, *Melampus* was by far the most numerous faunal taxon in our study, with over 1,000 observations. A list of all plant species observed during the 2001 sampling is in Appendix F.

## DISCUSSION

### Percent Cover

As expected, there were differences in coverage dominance between low marsh and high marsh zones of our reference sites. For the 2001 sampling episode, *S. alterniflora* was the dominant plant species in the low marsh zone, with *S. patens* a secondary dominant species. Similarly, the 1996 sampling showed *S. alterniflora* to be the dominant low marsh species. Within the high marsh zone, *S. patens* was the overwhelming dominant species, but *P. australis*, *D. spicata*, *S. alterniflora*, and *I. frutescens* all were distinctly recurring components of the plant community. The 1996 sampling showed *S. patens* and *D. spicata* to be the dominant high marsh plants.

### Stem Height

Except for the *D. spicata* and *P. australis* in the high marsh, and *J. romerianus* and *D. spicata* in the low marsh, each of the species analyzed showed at least some site-to-site stem height differences, suggesting that variation in canopy height and likely productivity is a natural feature of the local marshes. After repeated monitoring, and the establishment of the constructed wetlands on Poplar Island, the stem height data analysis may prove useful in evaluating the success and health of wetland communities planted on dredged material. Species with the least variation between sites may be the most appropriate for such an analysis.

### Diversity

Our 2001 data suggests that the plant community in the high marsh zone is more diverse than in the low marsh zone. Though this finding was not consistent with the 1996 study, it follows that diversity should be greater within the high marsh owing to a larger number of species adapted to infrequent tidal inundation compared to twice daily inundation and frequent wave-action in the low marsh. Within each of the two zones, there were no differences among sites, suggesting that pooling data from different sites is a reasonable approach in developing composition information for design prescriptions.

### Recommendations

The current monitoring study design allows for the detailed quantification of reference marsh vegetation parameters such as the three broad categories covered in Results and Discussion above. However, additional information could facilitate the application of this information in adaptive management of constructed wetlands on Poplar Island and in design prescription of future projects. Linking the detailed vegetation community information directly to elevational positioning in the marsh landscape would create a more intuitively-applicable, visually-accessible representation of local saltmarsh vegetation. Establishing connections between vegetation community variation and marsh elevations would make monitoring study products more readily applicable to design and mid-course correction guidance. Future monitoring should include microtopographical elevation determinations.



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Table 2. Vegetative Areal Cover by site and low marsh / high marsh zones

<i>Poplar Island Marsh Monitoring, Summer 2001: Vegetation/Quadrat Data</i>																						
		Vegetative areal cover as measured by percentage of all 0.25m <sup>2</sup> quadrats																				
		Species																				
SITE NAME		<i>Ameranthus cannabinis</i>	<i>Aster tenuifolius</i>	<i>Atriplex patula</i>	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	<i>Iva frutescens</i>	<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>	<i>Koeleria virginica</i>	<i>Limonium carolinianum</i>	<i>Lythrum lineare</i>	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	<i>Pluchea purpurescens</i>	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	<i>Spartina cynosuroides</i>	<i>Spartina patens</i>	<i>Salicornia sp.</i>	<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	<i>Scirpus robustus</i>	<i>Scirpus validus</i>	<i>Solidago semipervivens</i>	<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	Totals
	BACK CREEK	LOW	7.0	1.0	9.5	19.5	3.5					8.0		42.0		31.5	0.5				0.5	
HIGH		1.0	5.5	2.5		2.0					7.0		60.5		36.0							114.5
SITE		5.8	3.5	8.4	14.6	3.6					9.5		61.8		41.6							148.8
CABIN COVE	LOW		3.0	0.5	35.5	8.5	15.0		2.0	1.5	3.0		10.5		52.0					5.5		137.0
	HIGH		0.5		41.5	0.5	5.0		4.0		10.5	4.0	28.5		78.0	0.5				11.5		184.5
	SITE		2.5	0.4	47.4	6.6	13.8	0.0	3.5	1.1	7.5	2.0	22.1		78.0					9.9		194.8
	1996				23.3	0.5	4.5				3.5	2.0	33.3		31.5	0.5		0.8				99.9
COACHES ISLAND	LOW				24.0						13.5	4.0			66.0		30.5			0.5		138.5
	HIGH				9.0						8.5		19.0		54.0		8.0					98.5
	SITE				22.5						14.4	3.0	9.5		76.5		26.9				0.4	153.1
	1996				20.8		5.5				3.5		20.0		48.0		4.0	0.3				102.1
FRONT CREEK	LOW			1.0	10.0	2.0					14.0		28.0		47.5			0.5				103.0
	HIGH			3.5							14.0		52.5		7.5							77.5
	SITE			2.5	7.5	1.5					17.5		47.3		39.4			0.4				116.0
	1996				5.0	0.3							36.8		34.5				0.3			76.9
FRONT CREEK A	LOW		7.5		12.0	1.0	25.0		1.5		19.0		18.5	3.0	21.5					3.5		112.5
	HIGH		3.5		6.0	1.5	31.0		0.5		29.0		29.5		32.5					1.5		135.0
	SITE		7.4		12.0	1.5	34.3		1.4		28.8		28.6	2.3	32.4					3.4		151.9
HARBOR COVE	LOW		3.5		2.0		51.5				1.0		8.5		37.5		10.0	4.0		2.5		120.5
	HIGH	0.5	10.5		12.0	0.5	24.0		1.0	1.0	12.0		12.5		61.5		9.5			10.0		155.0
	SITE	0.3	7.9		7.5	0.3	50.6		0.5	0.5	6.8		12.6		58.9		12.3	3.0		6.9		167.9
	1996		1.8	0.3	25.8	1.3	22.5						13.8		45.0	1.0	3.3			2.5		117.3
KNAPPS NARROWS	LOW		2.0	5.5	4.5	5.5					10.5		49.0		30.5	1.5		0.5				109.5
	HIGH	1.5	1.5	1.0	20.0	2.5					3.5		43.0		48.5	1.5		0.5				123.5
	SITE	0.8	2.3	4.6	13.4	5.4					9.6		58.3		47.1	1.9		0.6			2.3	143.9
	1996		1.0	2.0	9.8	1.3					0.3		43.8		34.0							94.5
LOWES POINT	LOW		4.0		9.5	6.0	12.5				5.0	3.0	33.0		48.0							121.0
	HIGH			1.0	3.0	6.5		0.5			16.5		17.5		70.5							115.5
	SITE		3.0	0.5	8.6	7.8	9.4	0.3			12.0	2.3	33.5		71.3							148.5
	1996				28.3	1.5	6.3				1.8		24.5		50.5					0.5		113.4

Table 3. Relative vegetative areal cover by site and low marsh / high marsh zones

<i>Poplar Island Marsh Monitoring, Summer 2001: Vegetation/Quadrat Data</i>																								
		RELATIVE Vegetative areal cover as measured by percentage of all 0.25m <sup>2</sup> quadrats																						
		Species																						
SITE NAME		<i>Ameranthus cannabinis</i>	<i>Aster tenuifolius</i>	<i>Atriplex patula</i>	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	<i>Iva frutescens</i>	<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>	<i>Kosteletzkya virginica</i>	<i>Limonium carolinianum</i>	<i>Lythrum lineare</i>	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	<i>Pluchea purpurescens</i>	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	<i>Spartina cynosuroides</i>	<i>Spartina patens</i>	<i>Salicornia sp.</i>	<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	<i>Scirpus robustus</i>	<i>Scirpus validus</i>	<i>Solidago semipitrvens</i>	<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	bare ground	Totals	
BACK CREEK	LOW	5.7	0.8	7.7	15.9	2.8					6.5		34.1		25.6								100	
	HIGH	0.8	4.7	2.1		1.7					5.9		51.3		30.5								3.0	100
	SITE	3.8	2.3	5.6	9.7	2.4					6.3		41.0		27.7								1.2	100
CABIN COVE	LOW		2.2	0.4	25.9	6.2	10.9		1.5	1.1	2.2		7.7		38.0					4.0			100	
	HIGH		0.3		22.5	0.3	2.7		2.2		5.7	2.2	15.4		42.3					6.2			100	
	SITE		1.3	0.2	24.3	3.4	7.1		1.8	0.6	3.9	1.0	11.4		40.1					5.1			100	
	1995				23.3	0.5	4.5				3.5	2.0	33.3		31.5	0.5		0.8					100	
COACHES ISLAND	LOW				17.3						9.7	2.9			47.7		22.0						100	
	HIGH				8.7						8.2		18.4		52.2		7.7					4.8	100	
	SITE				14.5						9.2	1.9	6.1		49.1		17.3					1.6	100	
	1995				20.4		5.4				3.4		19.6		47.0		3.9						100	
FRONT CREEK	LOW			0.9	9.4	1.9					13.1		26.3	75.0	44.6			0.5				3.3	175	
	HIGH			4.5							18.1		67.7		9.7								100	
	SITE			2.1	6.3	1.3					14.8		39.8		33.2			0.3				2.2	100	
	1995				6.5	0.4							47.9		44.9				0.4				100	
FRONT CREEK A	LOW		6.7		10.7	0.9	22.2		1.3		16.9		16.4	2.7	19.1					3.1			100	
	HIGH		2.6		4.4	1.1	23.0		0.4		21.5		21.9		24.1					1.1			100	
	SITE		4.9		7.9	1.0	22.6		0.9		18.9		18.8	1.5	21.3					2.2			100	
	1995												11.8		38.4	0.9	2.8			2.1			100	
HARBOR COVE	LOW		2.9		1.7		42.7				0.8		7.1		31.1		8.3	3.3		2.1			100	
	HIGH	0.3	6.8		7.7	0.3	15.5		0.6	0.6	7.7		8.1		39.7		6.1			6.5			100	
	SITE	0.1	4.7		4.5	0.1	30.2		0.3	0.3	4.0		7.5		35.1		7.3	1.8		4.1			100	
	1995		1.5	0.3	22.0	1.1	19.2						11.8		38.4	0.9	2.8			2.1			100	
KNAPPS NARROWS	LOW		1.8	5.0	4.1	5.0					9.6		44.7		27.9	1.4		0.5					100	
	HIGH	1.2	1.2	0.8	16.2	2.0					2.8		34.8		39.3	1.2		0.4					100	
	SITE	0.5	1.6	3.2	9.3	3.7					6.7		40.5		32.8	1.3		0.4					100	
	1995		1.1	2.1	10.4	1.4					0.3		46.3		36.0				2.4				100	
LOWES POINT	LOW		3.3		7.9	5.0	10.3				4.1	2.5	27.3		39.7								100	
	HIGH			0.9	2.6	5.6		0.4			14.2		15.1		60.8							0.4	100	
	SITE		2.0	0.3	5.8	5.2	6.3	0.2			8.1	1.5	22.5		47.9							0.2	100	
	1995				25.0	1.3	5.6				1.6		21.6		44.5								100	

Table 4. Average percent cover by each plant species for all 2001 vegetation monitoring sites with observations divided by LOW marsh and HIGH marsh zonation.

SPECIES	Percent Cover			
	LOW MARSH		HIGH MARSH	
	Mean	+/- Std. Dev.	Mean	+/- Std. Dev.
<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	44.3	38	12.3	21.7
<i>Spartina patens</i>	28.6	38.3	61.7	38.3
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	6.5	17.9	19.6	28.8
<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>	18.75	39.9	1.8	10.2
<i>Iva frutescens</i>	1.6	4.1	3.4	6.4
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	6.2	16.2	15.7	23.7
<i>Scirpus robustus</i>	0.63	2.9	0.06	0.5
<i>Solidago semipirivens</i>	0.3	2.5	4.1	14.4
<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	0.8	6	6.4	20.15
<i>Aster tenuifolius</i>	4.3	10.6	1	4.2
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	2.6	8.4	0.44	2.3
<i>Ameranthus cannabinis</i>	1.3	5.5	0	0
<i>Salicornia sp.</i>	0.5	1.9	0	0
<i>Limonium carolinianum</i>	1.1	4.8	0	0
<i>Pluchea purpurescens</i>	0.44	2.5	0.94	4.14
<i>Lythrum lineare</i>	0.3	1.6	0	0
<i>Teucrium</i>	0	0	0.06	0.5
<i>Spartina cynosuroides</i>	0.38	3	0	0
<i>Kosteletzkya virginica</i>	0	0	0.06	0.5

Table 5. Comparison of percent cover for each plant species observed in LOW marsh quadrats (#'s one & two combined) during 2001 wetland vegetation monitoring. Species with no letters in common in the right-hand column are significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ). Species are listed in descending order by rank as assigned from sample medians.

	Species	Median	Min.	Max.	Different ?		
LOW MARSH	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	52.0	0	100.0	A		
	<i>Spartina patens</i>	0	0	100.0		B	
	<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>	0	0	100.0			C
	<i>Aster tenuifolius</i>	0	0	52.0			C
	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	0	0	100.0			C
	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	0	0	76.0			C
	<i>Iva frutescens</i>	0	0	20.0			C
	<i>Atriplex patula</i>	0	0	40.0			C
	<i>Ameranthus cannabinis</i>	0	0	40.0			C
	<i>Limonium carolinianum</i>	0	0	32.0			C
	<i>Salicornia sp.</i>	0	0	12.0			C
	<i>Lythrum lineare</i>	0	0	12.0			C
	<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	0	0	48.0			C
	<i>Pluchea purpurescens</i>	0	0	16.0			C
	<i>Spartina cynosuroides</i>	0	0	24.0			C
	<i>Solidago semipirivens</i>	0	0	20.0			C

Table 6. Comparison of percent cover for each plant species observed in HIGH marsh quadrats (#'s three & four combined) during 2001 wetland vegetation monitoring. Species with no letters in common in the right-hand column are significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ). Species are listed in descending order by rank as assigned from sample medians

		Species	Median	Min.	Max.	Different ?					
HIGH MARSH		<i>Spartina patens</i>	74.0	0	100.0	A					
		<i>Phragmites australis</i>	4.0	0	100.0		B				
		<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	0	0	100.0			C			
		<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	0	0	100.0				D		
		<i>Iva frutescens</i>	0	0	32.0					E	
		<i>Solidago semipirivens</i>	0	0	92.0						F
		<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	0	0	4.0						F
		<i>Aster tenuifolius</i>	0	0	28.0						F
		<i>Juncus romerianus</i>	0	0	80.0						F
		<i>Pluchea purpurescens</i>	0	0	24.0						F
		<i>Atriplex patula</i>	0	0	16.0						F
		<i>Teucrium</i>	0	0	4.0						F
		<i>Scirpus robustus</i>	0	0	4.0						F
		<i>Kosteletzkya virginica</i>	0	0	4.0						F
		<i>Salicornia sp.</i>	0	0	100.0						F

Table 7. Average stem height by species and by low marsh / high marsh zonation

<i>Poplar Island Marsh Monitoring, Summer 2001: Vegetation/Quadrat Data</i>																									
Species	Average Stem Height (cm) of Plant Species Occurring in 0.25m <sup>2</sup> Quadrats																								
	Back Creek			Cabin Cove			Coaches Isl.			Front Creek			Front Creek A			Harbor Cove			Knapps Narrows			Lowes Point			
	Low* Marsh	High* Marsh	Site AVG	Low Marsh	High Marsh	Site AVG	Low Marsh	High Marsh	Site AVG	Low Marsh	High Marsh	Site AVG	Low Marsh	High Marsh	Site AVG	Low Marsh	High Marsh	Site AVG	Low Marsh	High Marsh	Site AVG	Low Marsh	High Marsh	Site AVG	
<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	59.3	59.1	59.2	55.5		55.5	57.1		57.1	60.1	66.2	62.3	71.4		71.4	69.9	79.2	74.5	75.7	51.9	65.5	73.2	68.6	71.6	
<i>Spartina patens</i>	36.5	56.5	51.5	44.2	49.1	46.5	50.9	55.0	53.6	44.7	55.1	51.2	48.5	39.5	43.1	49.3	59.0	56.1	43.1	46.6	45.8	54.8	59.1	57.3	
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	38.8	48.9	44.8	37.8	42.4	40.4	36.3	49.9	44.0		45.9	45.9	41.3	36.3	37.6	41.5	43.3	43.0	35.6	39.9	38.5	51.0	41.7	43.2	
<i>Juncus romerianus</i>				78.7		78.7							87.8	56.8	81.6	93.1	74.3	87.5				103.2		103.2	
<i>Iva frutescens</i>	29.0	48.5	40.7	15.8	67.4	46.7				79.3		79.3	109.0	38.7	62.1		189.0	189.0	5.0	11.9	10.2	22.9	33.9	29.0	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>		105.9	105.9		173.2	173.2	212.0	102.6	168.2	119.0	96.3	104.8	135.5	118.4	120.8		163.7	163.7	156.2	95.5	110.7	166.5	137.3	148.3	
<i>Scirpus robustus</i>										81.0		81.0				98.6		98.6	148.0	87.0	117.5				
<i>Solidago semipirivens</i>		43.0	43.0		43.3	43.3								37.3	37.3		40.1	40.1							
<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>							21.0	79.1	67.4							76.0	76.8	76.6							
<i>Aster tenuifolius</i>	41.1		41.1	45.3	46.0	45.5							41.1		41.1	49.3	35.5	43.8	52.5	34.3	40.3	61.0		61.0	
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	41.9		41.9	19.0		19.0				24.3	32.1	29.5							37.4	36.0	37.1	29.0		29.0	
<i>Ameranthus cannabinis</i>	47.8		47.8													21.0		21.0	69.0		69.0				
<i>Salicornia sp.</i>	43.0		43.0	3.0		3.0													22.1		22.1				
<i>Limonium carolinianum</i>				30.6		30.6							60.2		60.2	64.0		64.0							
<i>Pluchea purpurescens</i>				2.2	15.0	6.5		25.7	25.7														9.6	9.6	
<i>Lythrum lineare</i>				32.3		32.3										33.0		33.0							
<i>Teucrium canadense</i>								28.0	28.0																
<i>Spartina cynosuroides</i>													114.6		114.6										
<i>Kosteletzkya virginica</i>																							21.0	21.0	

\* Low Marsh = combined average of Quadrat 1 & Quadrat 2 observations. High Marsh = comb. avg. Quadrat 3 & 4 observations

Table 8. Comparison of *Spartina patens* stem heights from all sites' high marsh zones. Sites with no letters in common in the right-hand columns have significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) *S. patens* stem heights. Sites are listed in descending order by sample means.

Species	Zone	Site	Mean	+/- Std. Dev.	Different?			
<i>Spartina patens</i>	HIGH MARSH	HAC	60.2	13.3	A			
		LOP	59.1	11.1	A			
		BAC	56.5	10.9	A	B		
		COI	55	12	A	B		
		FRC	54.8	8.7	A	B	C	
		CAC	49.1	13.6		B	C	D
		KNN	46.6	8.3			C	D
		FRCA	39.5	12.5				D



Table 9. Simpson's diversity indices and species richness for 2001 and 1996 sampling episodes

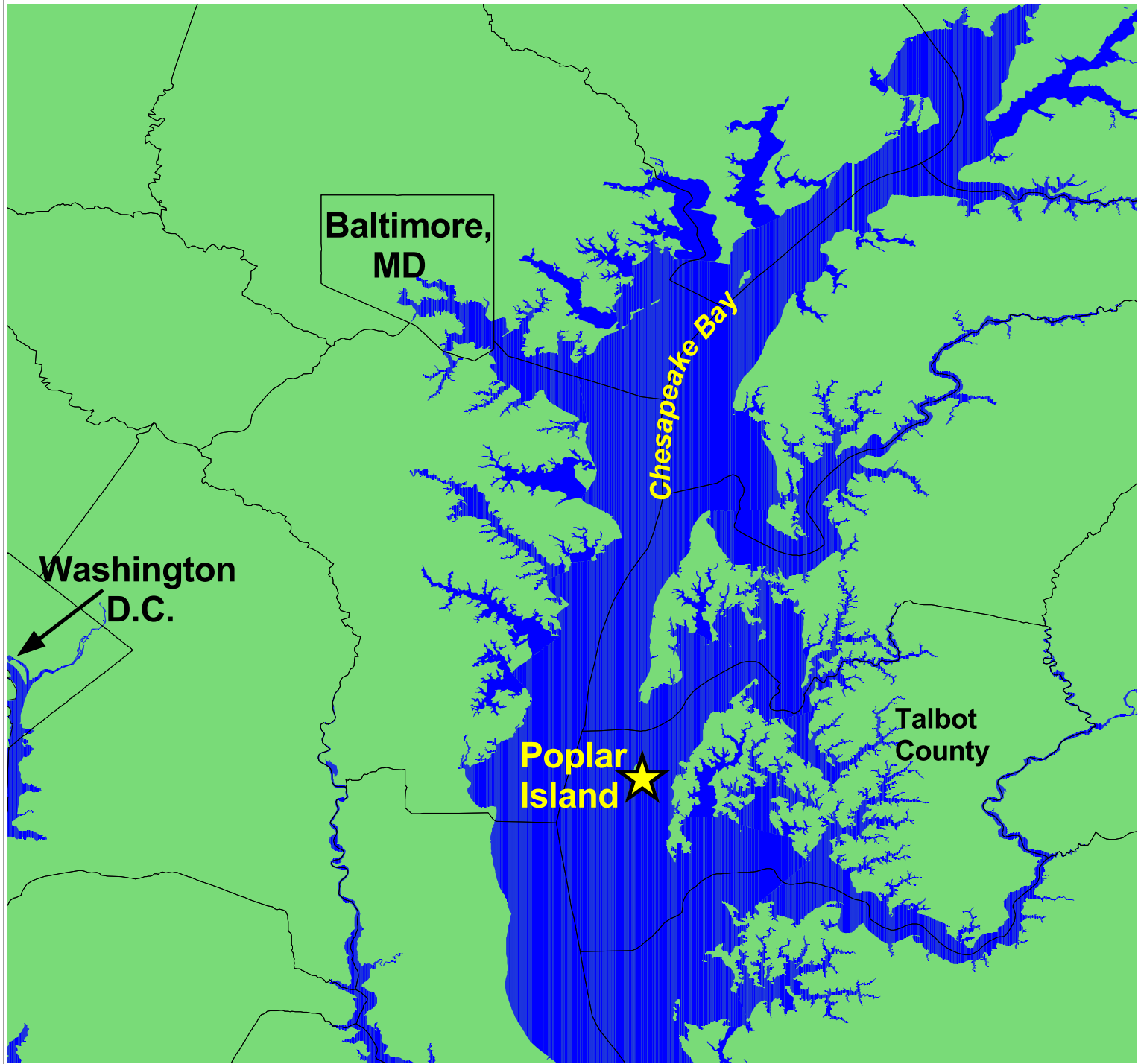
<i>Poplar Island Marsh Monitoring, Summer 2001: Vegetation/Segment Data</i>												
SITE NAME	Simpson's diversity indices* and species richness** for 5m line-intercept vegetation segments											
	Low Marsh				High Marsh				Site			
	2001		1996		2001		1996		2001		1996	
	S.D.I.	Spp. R.	S.D.I.	Spp. R.	S.D.I.	Spp. R.	S.D.I.	Spp. R.	S.D.I.	Spp. R.	S.D.I.	Spp. R.
BACK CREEK	0.56	6	-	-	0.71	7	-	-	0.64	10	-	-
CABIN COVE	0.66	9	0.64	4	0.66	9	0.68	6	0.66	12	0.66	7
COACHES ISL	0.46	6	0.66	6	0.60	8	0.66	6	0.53	12	0.66	7
FRONT CREEK	0.54	6	0.60	4	0.60	7	0.39	4	0.57	8	0.49	5
FRONT CREEK A	0.59	7	-	-	0.60	7	-	-	0.60	10	-	-
HARBOR COVE	0.50	8	0.60	7	0.74	12	0.71	7	0.62	17	0.66	9
KNAPPS NARROWS	0.63	7	0.58	5	0.69	5	0.73	7	0.66	9	0.65	8
LOWES POINT	0.62	7	0.53	7	0.73	8	0.64	6	0.67	9	0.58	10
<b>ALL SITES AVG.</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>0.64</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>7.7</b>

An index close to 0 means it is likely most individuals encountered in a sample will be the same species, i.e. low diversity.

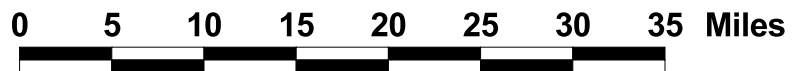
\*\*Species richness is the number of species observed in a sampling unit

Table 10. Faunal taxa abundance by low and high marsh zones for 2001 sampling sites

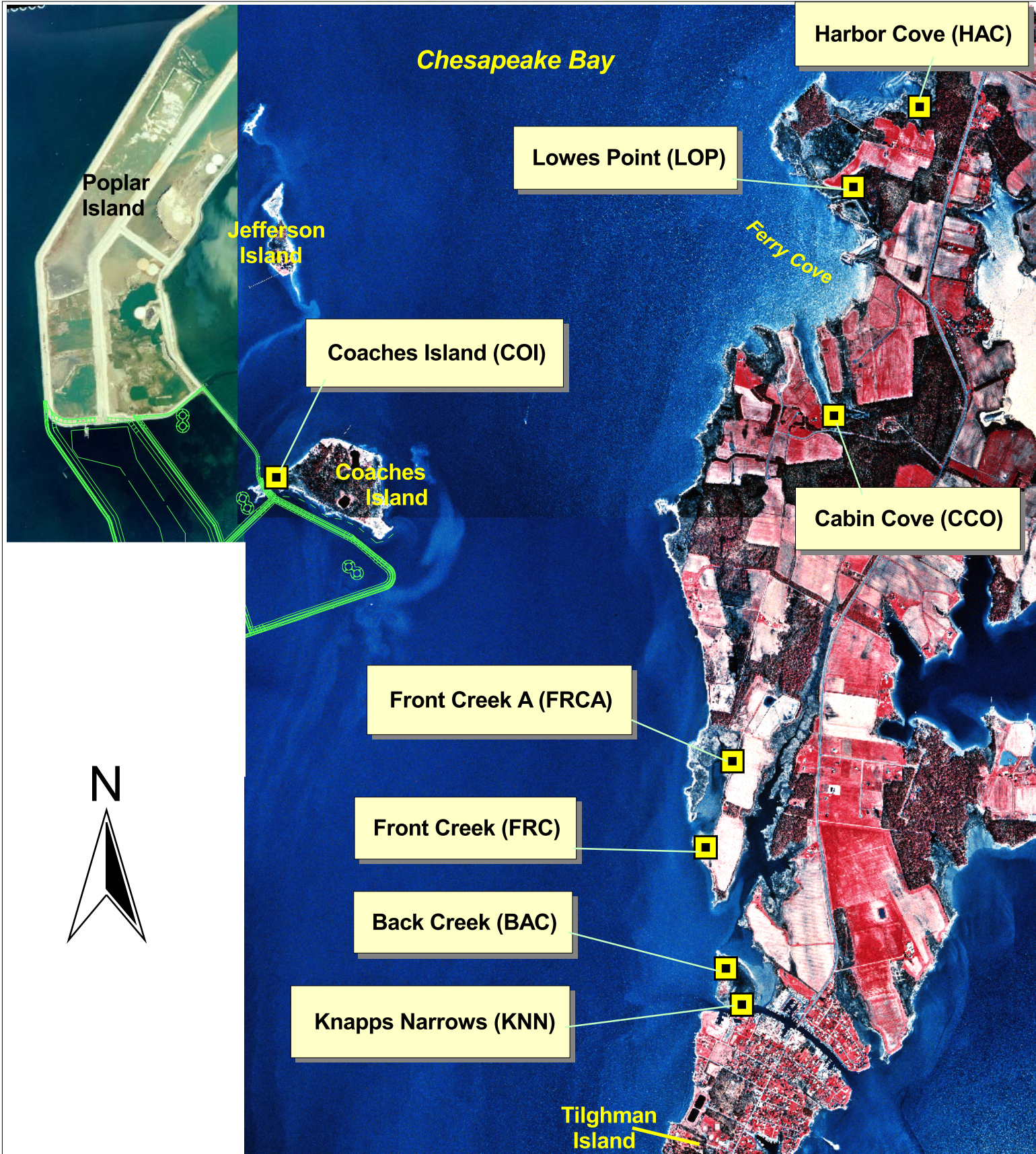
<i>Poplar Island Marsh Monitoring, Summer 2001: Fauna/Quadrat Data</i>																						
		Number of individuals of spp./quadrat																				
SITE NAME	<i>Littorina</i>	<i>Melampus</i>	Arachnida (Spider)	Isopoda	Hymenoptera	Amphipoda	Cicadellidae (leafhopper)	Orthoptera (grasshopper)	Coleoptera	Orthoptera (cricket)	Lepidoptera	<i>Uca</i>	Insects	Arachnida (mite)	ribbed mussel	Hemiptera	UNK fish fry	<i>Fundulus heteroclitis</i> (dead)	UNK frog	UNK snail	TOTAL OBS	
LOW MARSH	BAC	9	73	20	3	7	2	2	1	1			1								119	
	CAC	53	169	12	3	11	2	8	4				1	1	1						265	
	COI			45	10	56	6	15	3												135	
	FRC	1	66	15	26	26	8	13		1			5								161	
	FRCA	264	56	28		9		15	1		1		1								375	
	HAC	104	26	20		2		4	2		1	1	1								161	
	KNN	52	52	16		3	1	26					8						1		159	
	LOP	82	102	16	1	21	1	8		17		1	1	2	5	1				1	259	
	TOTAL	565	544	172	43	135	20	91	7	22	1	3	2	19	6	2			1	1	1634	
HIGH MARSH	BAC		95	18	1	22	2	1	5	1	2	2									149	
	CAC		175	7	2	15	8		1	1			1	1	4						215	
	COI		4	33	2	23	3	2	2	3						25	4				101	
	FRC		141	42	12	39	4	14	4				5	1							262	
	FRCA		201	26	12	37	7	2	4	1	2	1	1								294	
	HAC		85	55	23	17	2	7	2	2			2	2	1						198	
	KNN		148	36	1	3	1	12	1	2	1		5								210	
	LOP	1	208	18		37	1	6		5			1	6	4						1	288
	TOTAL	1	1057	235	53	193	28	44	19	15	5	3	1	20	8	5	25	4			1	1717
GRAND TOTALS ->	566	1601	407	96	328	48	135	26	37	6	6	3	39	14	7	25	4	1	1	1	3351	



**Figure 1. Location of Poplar Island in Chesapeake Bay**







**Figure 2. Location of wetland vegetation monitoring reference marshes**



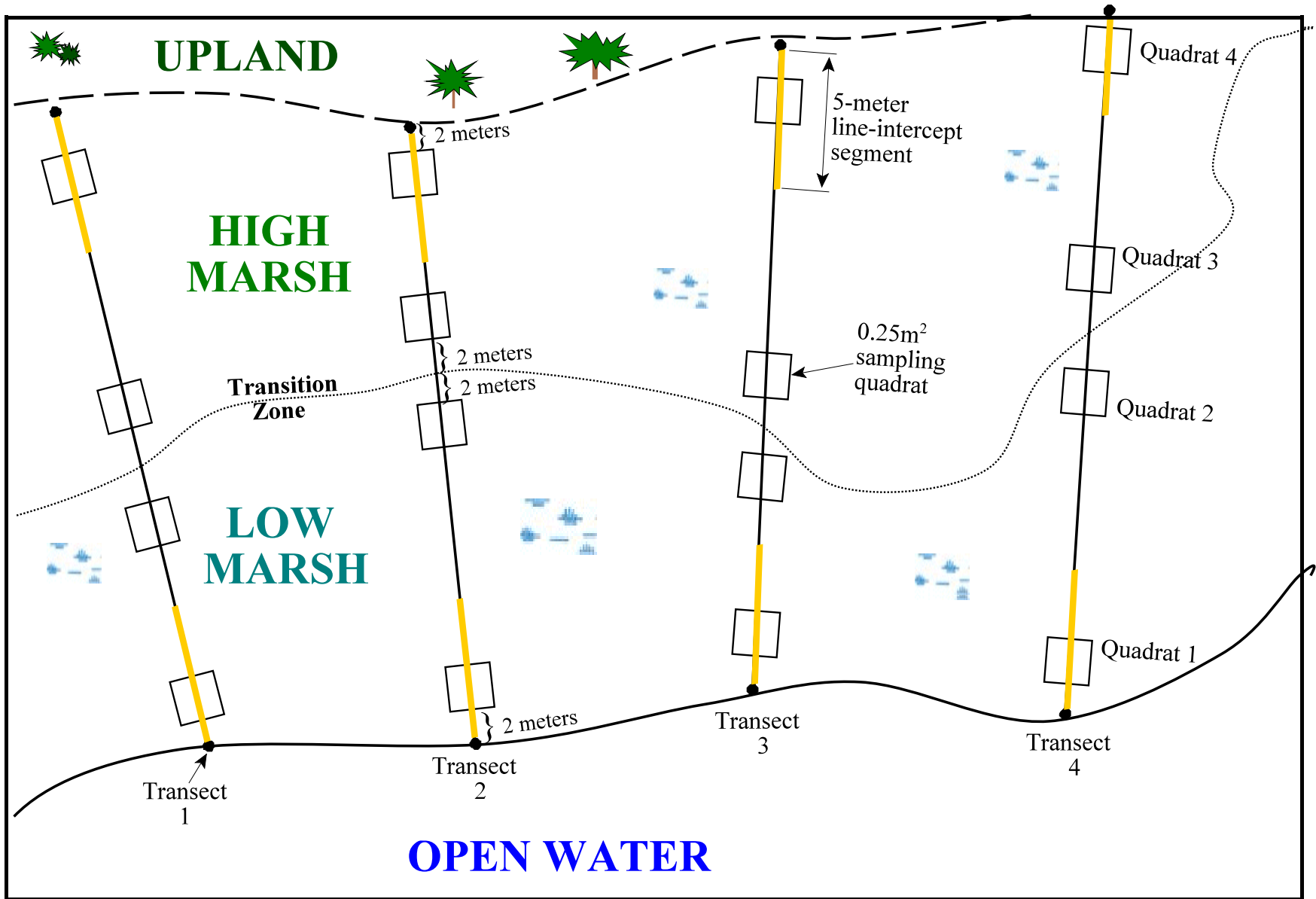


Figure 3. Idealized representation of spatial relationship between sampling features and wetland elevations. Features are not drawn to scale.

Back Creek ↗

**LOW MARSH:**  
3 Most Dominant Plant Species by Coverage:  
Spartina alterniflora, Spartina patens, Distichlis spicata  
Simpson's Index of Diversity - Plants: 0.56

**HIGH MARSH:**  
3 Most Dominant Plant Species by Coverage:  
Spartina alterniflora, Spartina patens, Phragmites australis  
Simpson's Index of Diversity - Plants: 0.71

Chesapeake Bay

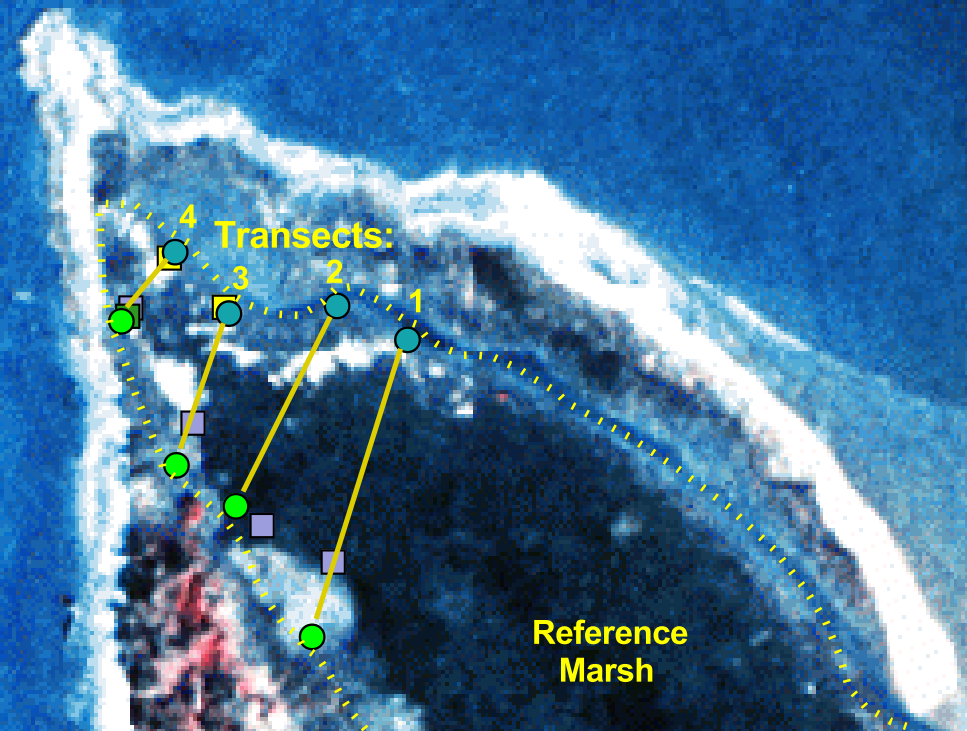
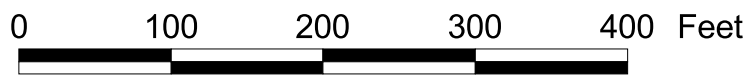


Figure 4. Back Creek Wetland Vegetation Monitoring Site



- Transect Points\*:
- Water Terminus
  - Quadrat 1
  - Quadrat 2
  - Quadrat 3
  - Upland Terminus
- \*not all features displayed



**Figure 5. Cabin Cove Wetland Vegetation Monitoring Site.**

0 200 400 600 800 Feet

**Transect Points\*:**

- Water Terminus
- Quadrat 1
- Quadrat 2
- Quadrat 3
- Upland Terminus

\*not all features displayed



Poplar Harbor

**LOW MARSH:**

**3 Most Dominant Plant Species by Coverage:**

*Spartina patens*, *Schoenoplectus americanus*, *Distichlis spicata*

Simpson's Index of Diversity - Plants: 0.46 (1996 - 0.66)

**HIGH MARSH:**

**3 Most Dominant Plant Species by Coverage:**

*Spartina patens*, *Spartina alterniflora*, *Distichlis spicata*

Simpson's Index of Diversity - Plants: 0.60 (1996 - 0.66)

Poplar Island Cell 4

**Transects:**

4 3 2 1

Coaches Island

Reference Marsh

**Figure 6. Coaches Island Wetland Vegetation Monitoring Site**

0 100 200 300 400 Feet



**Transect Points\*:**

● Water Terminus

■ Quadrat 1

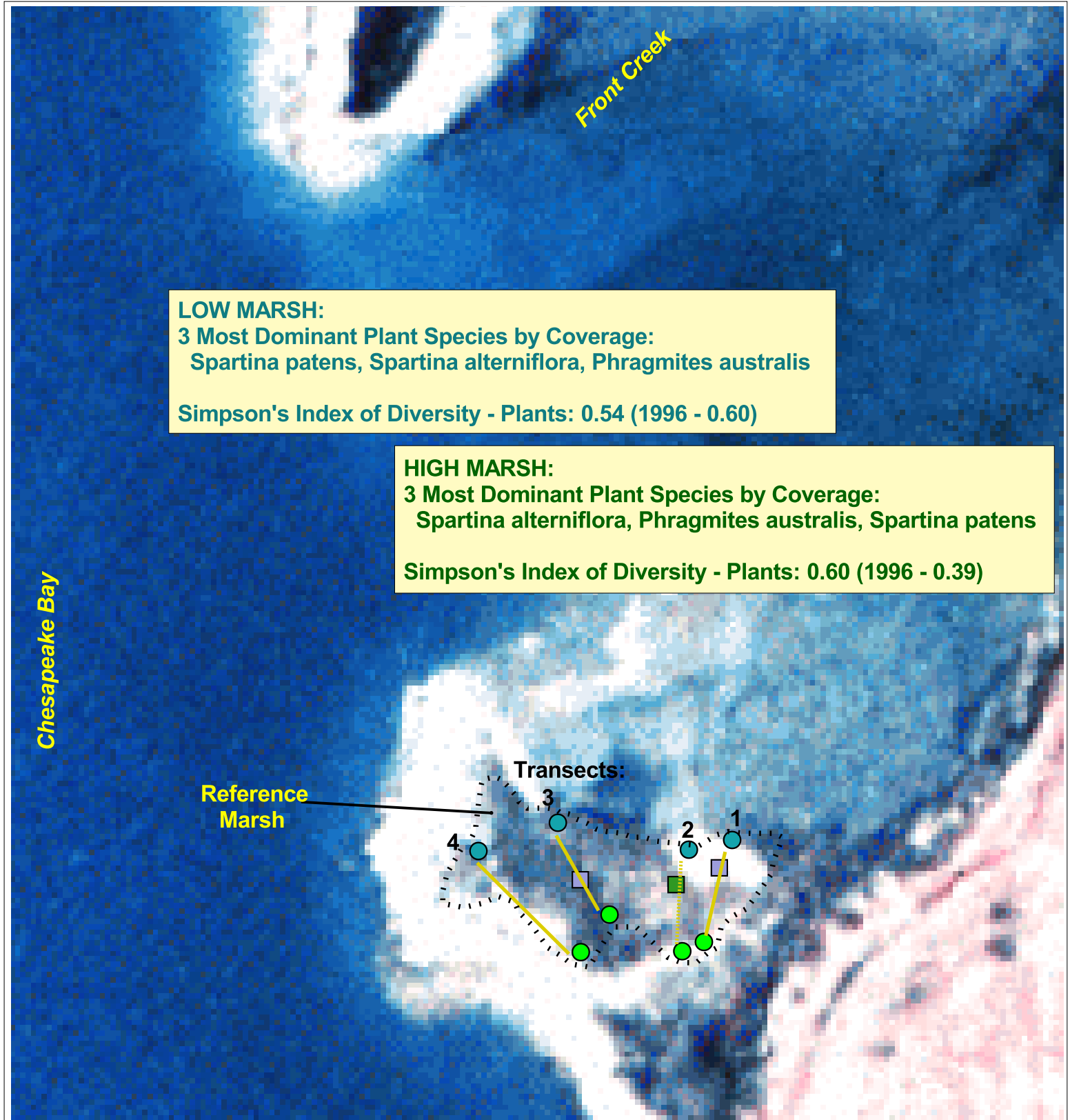
■ Quadrat 2

■ Quadrat 3

● Upland Terminus

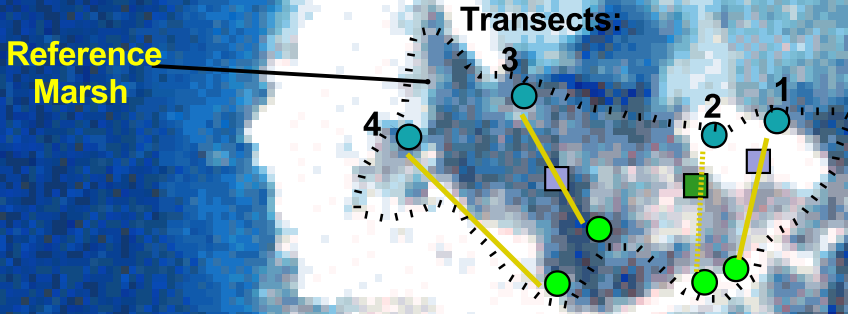
\*not all features displayed





**LOW MARSH:**  
**3 Most Dominant Plant Species by Coverage:**  
 Spartina patens, Spartina alterniflora, Phragmites australis  
 Simpson's Index of Diversity - Plants: 0.54 (1996 - 0.60)

**HIGH MARSH:**  
**3 Most Dominant Plant Species by Coverage:**  
 Spartina alterniflora, Phragmites australis, Spartina patens  
 Simpson's Index of Diversity - Plants: 0.60 (1996 - 0.39)



**Figure 7. Front Creek Wetland Vegetation Monitoring Site**

0 80 160 240 320 Feet



Transect Points\*:

- Water Terminus
- Quadrat 1
- Quadrat 2
- Quadrat 3
- Upland Terminus

\*not all features displayed



**Figure 8. Front Creek "A" Wetland Vegetation Monitoring Site**

0 100 200 300 400 Feet



Transect Points\*:

- Water Terminus
- Quadrat 1
- Quadrat 2
- Quadrat 3
- Upland Terminus

\*not all features displayed

Harbor Cove

**LOW MARSH:**

**3 Most Dominant Plant Species by Coverage:**

**Juncus romerianus, Spartina Patens, Schoenoplectus americanus**

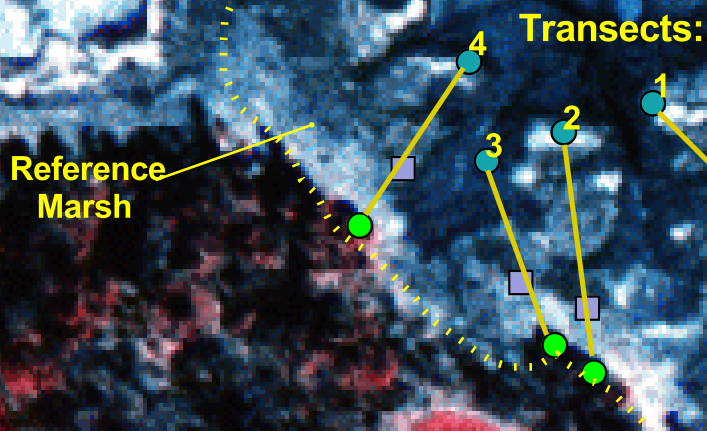
**Simpson's Index of Diversity - Plants: 0.50 (1996 - 0.60)**

**HIGH MARSH:**

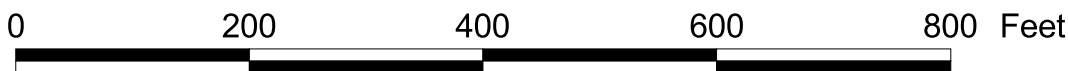
**3 Most Dominant Plant Species by Coverage:**

**Spartina patens, Juncus romerianus, Spartina alterniflora**

**Simpson's Index of Diversity - Plants: 0.74 (1996 - 0.71)**



**Figure 9. Harbor Cove Wetland Vegetation Monitoring Site**



**Transect Points\*:**

- Water Terminus
- Quadrat 1
- Quadrat 2
- Quadrat 3
- Upland Terminus

\*not all features displayed

**LOW MARSH:**

**3 Most Dominant Plant Species by Coverage:**

*Spartina alterniflora*, *Spartina patens*, *Phragmites australis*

Simpson's Index of Diversity - Plants: 0.63 (1996 - 0.58)

**HIGH MARSH:**

**3 Most Dominant Plant Species by Coverage:**

*Spartina patens*, *Spartina alterniflora*, *Distichlis spicata*

Simpson's Index of Diversity - Plants: 0.69 (1996 - 0.73)

Chesapeake Bay

Reference  
Marsh

Transects:






Knapps Narrows

**Figure 10. Knapps Narrows Wetland Vegetation Monitoring Site**

0 100 200 300 400 Feet



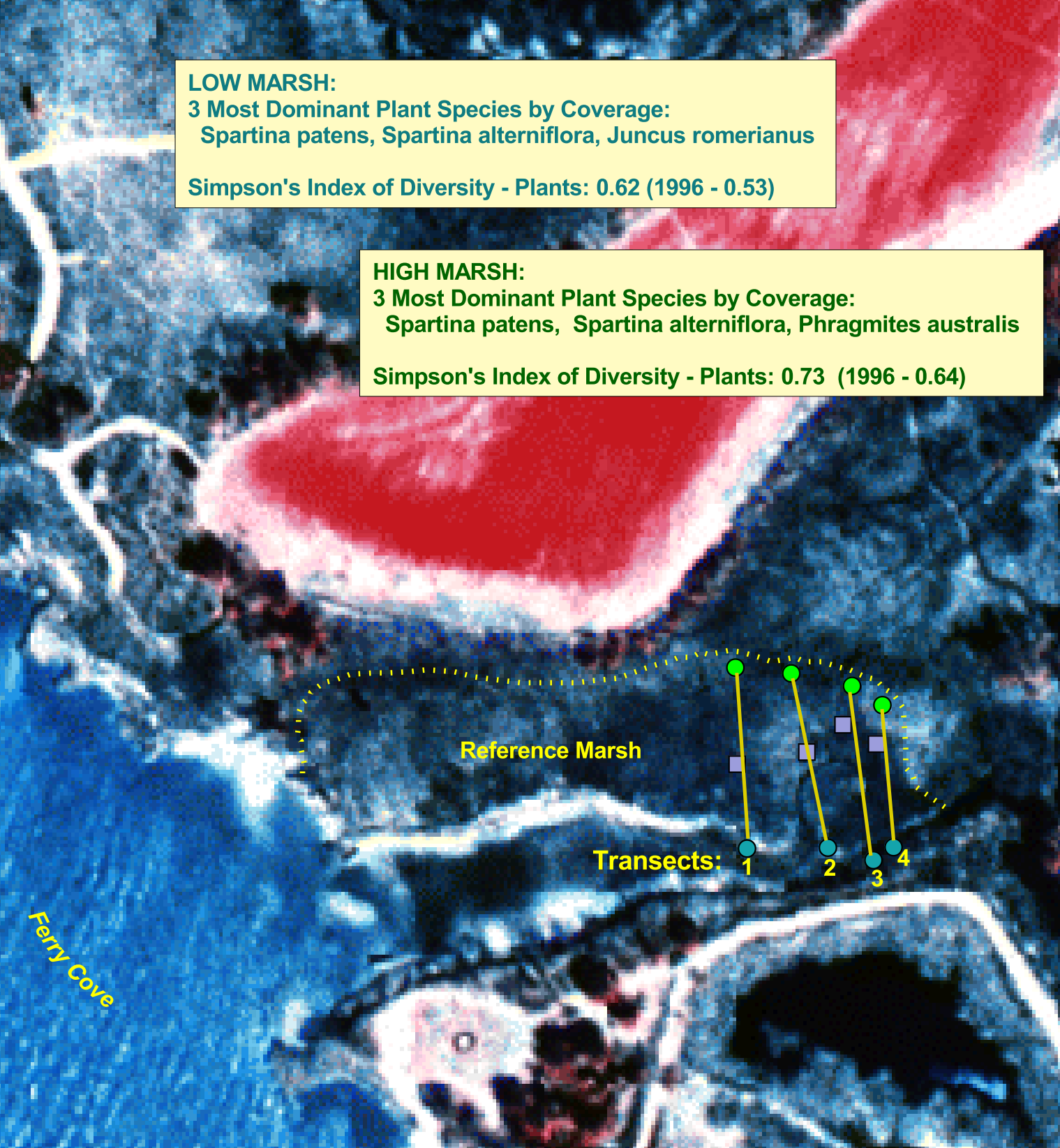
**Transect Points\*:**

-  Water Terminus
-  Quadrat 1
-  Quadrat 2
-  Quadrat 3
-  Upland Terminus

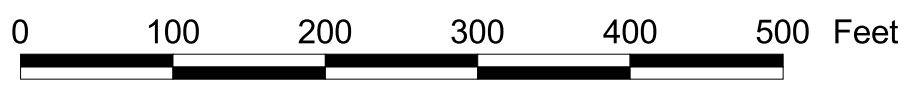
\*not all features displayed

**LOW MARSH:**  
 3 Most Dominant Plant Species by Coverage:  
*Spartina patens*, *Spartina alterniflora*, *Juncus roemerianus*  
 Simpson's Index of Diversity - Plants: 0.62 (1996 - 0.53)

**HIGH MARSH:**  
 3 Most Dominant Plant Species by Coverage:  
*Spartina patens*, *Spartina alterniflora*, *Phragmites australis*  
 Simpson's Index of Diversity - Plants: 0.73 (1996 - 0.64)



**Figure 11. Lowes Point Wetland Vegetation Monitoring Site**



**Transect Points\*:**

- Water Terminus
- Quadrat 1
- Quadrat 2
- Quadrat 3
- Upland Terminus

\*not all features displayed

Figure 12. Plant species diversity by line-intercept segment for 2001 wetland vegetation monitoring

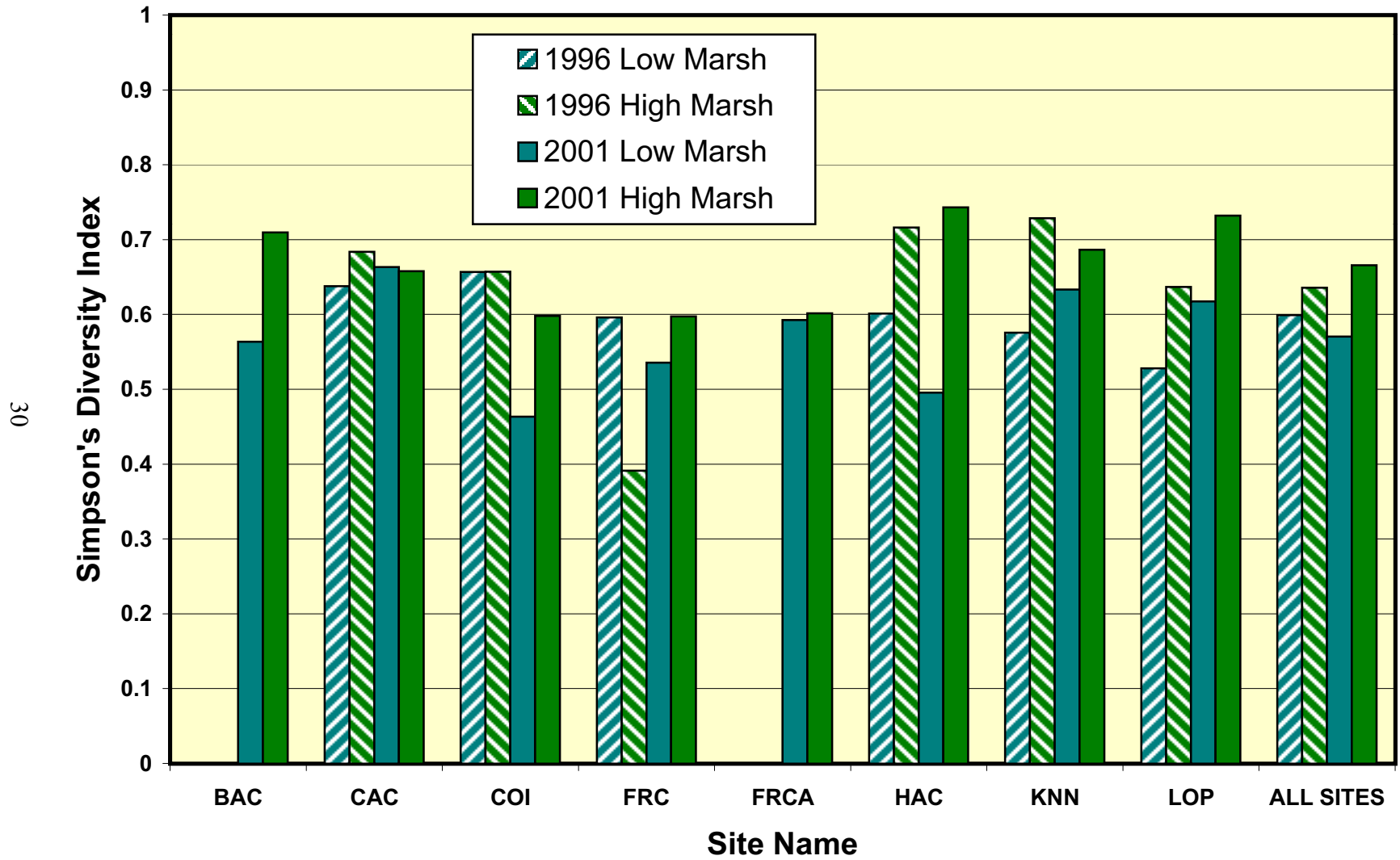
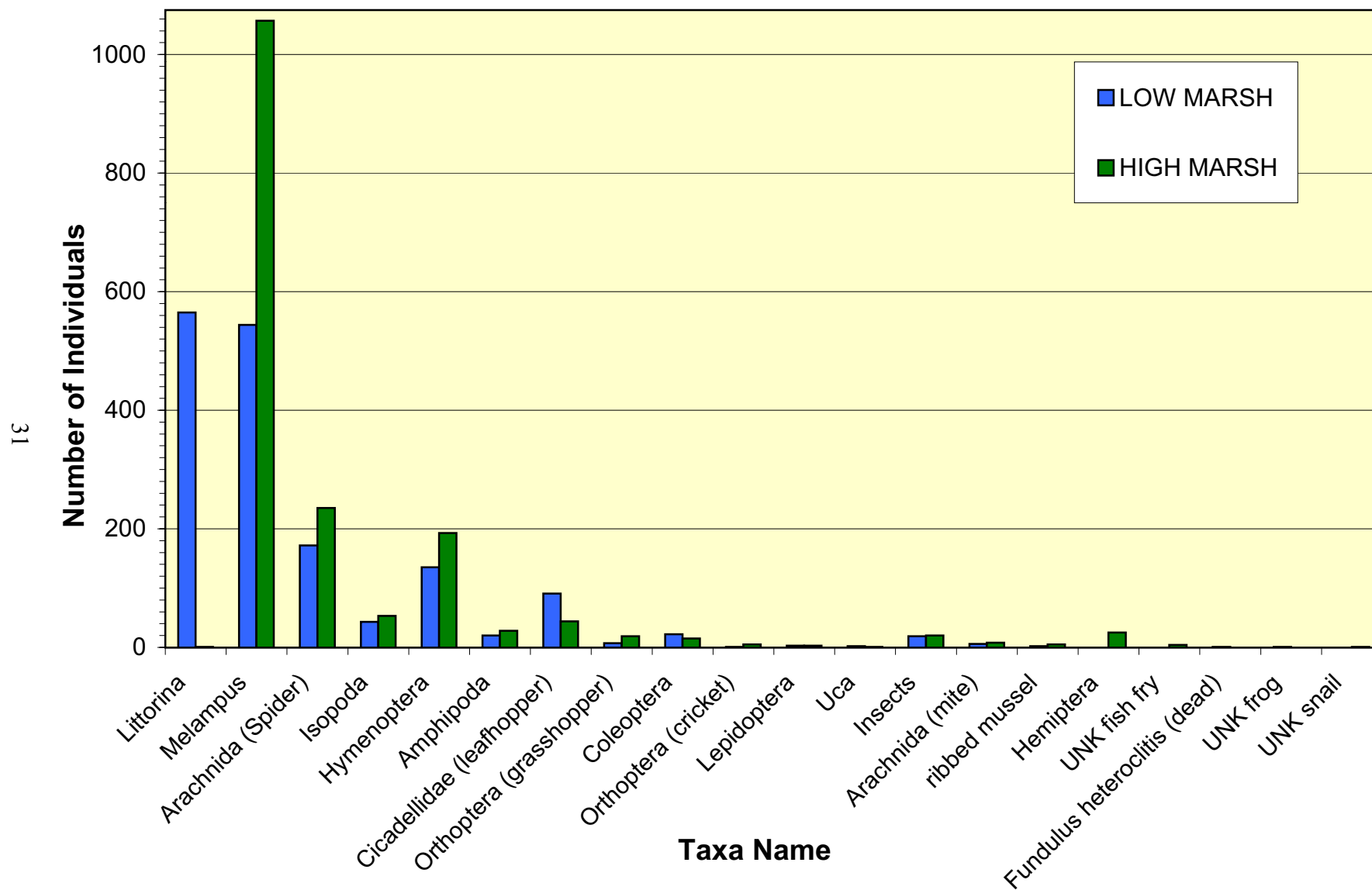


Figure 13. Faunal taxa frequency for 2001 wetland vegetation monitoring



**APPENDIX A**

**GPS coordinates of transect locations for 2001 Vegetation Monitoring**



## GPS Locations for Marsh Monitoring Transects as Sampled Summer 2001

Site Name	Transect #	Water Terminus		Upland Terminus		Quadrat 1		Quadrat 2		Quadrat 3	
		Longitude	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude
Back Creek	1	-76.33757	38.72352	-76.33787	38.72280			-76.33780	38.72298		
	2	-76.33778	38.72360	-76.33810	38.72312			-76.33802	38.72307		
	3	-76.33812	38.72358	-76.33828	38.72322	-76.33813	38.72360	-76.33823	38.72332		
	4	-76.33828	38.72373	-76.33845	38.72357	-76.33830	38.72372	-76.33842	38.72360	-76.33843	38.72358
Cabin Creek	1	-76.32915	38.75630	-76.32903	38.75607			-76.32915	38.75623		
	2	-76.32942	38.75632	-76.32915	38.75582			-76.32933	38.75615		
	3	-76.32957	38.75623	-76.32930	38.75567			-76.32948	38.75608		
	4	-76.32973	38.75630	-76.32948	38.75558			-76.32965	38.75612		
Coaches Island	1	-76.37153	38.75323	-76.37115	38.75248			-76.37122	38.75253		
	2	-76.37177	38.75317	-76.37147	38.75240			-76.37158	38.75257		
	3	-76.37220	38.75333	-76.37163	38.75240			-76.37170	38.75248		
	4	-76.37228	38.75327	-76.37220	38.75235			-76.37218	38.75263		
Front Creek Mouth	1	-76.33970	38.73085	-76.33977	38.73067			-76.33973	38.73080		
	2	-76.33980	38.73083	-76.33982	38.73065					-76.33983	38.73077
	3	-76.34010	38.73088	-76.33998	38.73072			-76.34005	38.73078		
	4	-76.34028	38.73083	-76.34005	38.73065						
Front Creek Interior ("A")	1	-76.33787	38.73623	-76.33712	38.73618			-76.33768	38.73622		
	2	-76.33788	38.73605	-76.33712	38.73603			-76.33728	38.73603		
	3	-76.33765	38.73590	-76.33717	38.73590			-76.33747	38.73592		
	4	-76.33795	38.73572	-76.33748	38.73547			-76.33782	38.73565		
Harbor Cove	1	-76.32280	38.77470	-76.32235	38.77433			-76.32247	38.77443		
	2	-76.32307	38.77463	-76.32298	38.77407			-76.32300	38.77422		
	3	-76.32330	38.77457	-76.32310	38.77413			-76.32320	38.77428		
	4	-76.32335	38.77480	-76.32368	38.77442			-76.32355	38.77455		
Knapps Narrows	1	-76.33670	38.72102	-76.34617	38.72157			-76.33763	38.72145		
	2	-76.33682	38.72145	-76.33778	38.72163			-76.33765	38.72162		
	3	-76.33672	38.72170	-76.33747	38.72190			-76.33733	38.72183		
	4	-76.33665	38.72178	-76.33740	38.72212			-76.33722	38.72202		
Lowes Point	1	-76.32835	38.76948	-76.32838	38.76995			-76.32838	38.76970		
	2	-76.32808	38.76948	-76.32820	38.76993			-76.32815	38.76973		
	3	-76.32793	38.76945	-76.32800	38.76990			-76.32803	38.76980		
	4	-76.32787	38.76948	-76.32790	38.76985			-76.32792	38.76975		

**APPENDIX B**

**Photomonitoring log**

**(all views from transects' water terminus toward upland edge of marsh)**



Back Creek Transect #1 8/23/01



Back Creek Transect #2 8/23/01



Back Creek Transect #3 8/23/01



Back Creek Transect #4 8/23/01

Back Creek (BAC) Reference Marsh Photomonitoring - 2001





Cabin Cove Transect #1 8/9/01



Cabin Cove Transect #2 8/9/01



Cabin Cove Transect #3 8/9/01



Cabin Cove Transect #4 8/9/01

Cabin Cove (CAC) Reference Marsh Photomonitoring - 2001





Coaches Island Transect #1 8/22/01



Coaches Island Transect #2 8/22/01



Coaches Island Transect #3 8/22/01



Coaches Island Transect #4 8/22/01





Front Creek Transect #1 8/20/01



Front Creek Transect #2 8/20/01



Front Creek Transect #3 8/20/01



Front Creek Transect #4 8/20/01

Front Creek (FRC) Reference Marsh Photomonitoring - 2001





Front Creek "A" Transect #1 8/24/01



Front Creek "A" Transect #2 8/24/01



Front Creek "A" Transect #3 8/24/01



Front Creek "A" Transect #4 8/24/01





Harbor Cove Transect #1 8/15/01



Harbor Cove Transect #2 8/15/01



Harbor Cove Transect #3 8/15/01



Harbor Cove Transect #4 8/15/01

Harbor Cove (HAC) Reference Marsh Photomonitoring - 2001





Knapps Narrows Transect #1 8/16/01



Knapps Narrows Transect #2 8/16/01



Knapps Narrows Transect #3



Knapps Narrows Transect #4 8/16/01

Knapps Narrows (KNN) Reference Marsh Photomonitoring - 2001





Lowes Point Transect #1 8/14/01



Lowes Point Transect #2 8/14/01



Lowes Point Transect #3 8/14/01



Lowes Point Transect #4 8/14/01

## **APPENDIX C**

**Vegetation Data: Raw percent cover and vegetation community composition data**

**Vegetation/Quadrat Data: Raw percent cover data**











**Vegetation/Segment Data: Raw vegetation community composition data**

**Poplar Island Marsh Monitoring, Summer 2001: Vegetation/Segment Data**

Site Name	Transect #	Segment	Spp. Intercepted on 5-meter Segments. Values are # of Decimeter Subsegments Intercepting a spp. (out of 50 possible)																							PER SITE											
			alterniflora	patens	Distichlis	Juncus r.	iva	Phrag	Scirpus r.	Solidago s.	Scirpus o.	Aster t.	Atriplex	Ameranthus c.	Salicornia	Limonium	Pluchea	Lythrum	Teucrium	cynosuroides	Kosteletzkya	Setaria parviflora	odder	Ammoph. brevil.	Hibiscus m.	Germander	Ipomoea s.	switch grass	Baccharis	Loblolly pine	N(N-1)	SUM ni(ni-1)	Simpson's Diver. Index		Avg. S.D.I LowMarsh	Avg. S.D.I HighMarsh	
Back Creek 8/23/01	T1	Low	48							6	16	20	1																	8190	2906	0.645177					
		High		27	21		26	23		4																				10100	2290	0.7732673					
	T2	Low	47									43	13																	10506	4124	0.6074624					
		High		44	7		18	20				2																		8190	2622	0.6798535					
	T3	Low	47								8	19	12																	7310	2692	0.6317373					
		High	49	22	10		10	23																					12882	3500	0.7283031						
	T4	Low	52							1	12											2								4422	2786	0.3699683		0.56359	0.709704		
		High	25	48				29				2																		10712	3670	0.6573936	BAC		0.636645		
Cabin Cove 8/9/01	T1	Low	24	35	6	20	12			10				3		5														13110	2400	0.8169336					
		High		20	30		18	49			3				4								2							27722	5568	0.7991487					
	T2	Low	42	42	12	13	8								4															14520	3800	0.738292					
		High			41		13	9																						4692	1898	0.5954817					
	T3	Low	23	39											1															3906	1988	0.4910394					
		High		36	41		21	16									1													13110	3560	0.7284516					
	T4	Low	25	41	8	1											2														5852	2298	0.6073137		0.66339	0.657902	
		High			47		7	6				9																			4692	2306	0.5085251	CCO		0.660648	
Coaches Island 8/22/01	T1	Low		20																										3080	1570	0.4902597					
		High		48	4		7	2			16																			6642	2572	0.6127672					
	T2	Low		15				35																							3782	1532	0.5949233				
		High		48	43						5																				9120	4082	0.5524123				
	T3	Low	35					4																							1482	1202	0.1889339				
		High		48				7											4												9506	3792	0.601094				
	T4	Low		30			5	26																								3660	1540	0.579235		0.46334	0.598221
		High		45			19	19																								7140	2666	0.6266106	CI		0.53078

**Poplar Island Marsh Monitoring, Summer 2001: Vegetation/Segment Data**

Site Name	Transect #	Segment	Spp. Intercepted on 5-meter Segments. Values are # of Decimeter Subsegments Intercepting a spp. (out of 50 possible)																				PER SITE												
			alterniflora	patens	Distichlis	Juncus r.	Iva	Phrag	Scirpus r.	Solidago s.	Scirpus o.	Aster t.	Atriplex	Ameranthus c.	Sailcomia	Limonium	Pluchea	Lythrum	Teucrium	cynosuroides	Kosteletzkya	Setaria parviflora	dodder	Ammoph. brevil.	Hibiscus m.	Germander	Ipomoea s.	switch grass	Baccharis	Loblolly pine	N(N-1)	SUM ni(ni-1)	Simpson's Diver. Index		Avg. S.D.I. LowMarsh
Front Creek 8/20/01	T1	Low	34	7					20																					3660	1544	0.5781421			
		High		49	21				23			3																		9120	3284	0.6399123			
	T2	Low	17	3	6		24	18																						4556	1166	0.7440737			
		High		50	33			17																						9900	3778	0.6183838			
	T3	Low	50	26																										5700	3100	0.4561404			
		High	11	8			7	24				2																	3080	774	0.7487013				
	T4	Low	50	11																										3660	2560	0.3005464		0.51973	0.597494
		High	36						12																				2256	1392	0.3829787	FRC		0.55861	
Front Creek "A" 8/24 & 27/01	T1	Low	43				1			28				3															5550	2568	0.5372973				
		High		13	13		24	35		24																			11772	2606	0.7786273				
	T2	Low	46	6			15				11				13					9										9900	2648	0.7325253			
		High		2			22	50																					5402	2914	0.4605702				
	T3	Low	45	1	3						19				2															4830	2330	0.5175983			
		High	1	21	2		28	50																					10302	3628	0.6478354				
	T4	Low	50	25	1						9				2															7482	3124	0.5824646		0.59247	0.601497
		High					29	50				4																	6806	3274	0.5189539	FRCA		0.596984	
Harbor Cove 8/15/01	T1	Low				45				2																			2162	1982	0.0832562				
		High		34	1			28			40																		11556	3458	0.7007615				
	T2	Low	5			36			22		2			1																4290	1744	0.5934732			
		High		47	34		13			5																				11130	3502	0.6853549			
	T3	Low	29	31							3																			3906	1748	0.5524834			
		High		38	1		25	31			14			3															12656	3124	0.7531606				
	T4	Low	28	30		29					13				3															10506	2600	0.7525224		0.49543	0.701412
		High		50	30		1	22			2			1															1	11342	3784	0.6663728	HAC		0.598423

**Poplar Island Marsh Monitoring, Summer 2001: Vegetation/Segment Data**

Site Name	Transect #	Segment	Spp. Intercepted on 5-meter Segments. Values are # of Decimeter Subsegments Intercepting a spp. (out of 50 possible)																							PER SITE								
			alterniflora	patens	Distichlis	Juncus r.	Iva	Phrag	Scirpus r.	Solidago s.	Scirpus o.	Aster t.	Airplex	Ameranthus c.	Salicornia	Limonium	Pluchea	Lythrum	Teucrium	cynosuroides	Kosteletzky	Setaria parviflora	dodder	Ammoph. brevif.	Hibiscus m.	Germander	Ipomoea s.	switch grass	Baccharis	Loblolly pine	N(N-1)	SUM ni(ni-1)	Simpson's Diver. Index	Avg. S.D.I LowMarsh
Knapps Narrows 8/16/01	T1	Low	34				18	30	6																				7656	2328	0.6959248			
		High	31	21			16	6																					5402	1620	0.7001111			
	T2	Low	40									3	10	10																3906	1746	0.5529954		
		High		35	20		12	12																					6162	1834	0.7023694			
	T3	Low	39										1	15	17															5112	1964	0.6158059		
		High	18	50	5		23	23																					14042	3788	0.7302379			
	T4	Low	47									8	20	21																9120	3018	0.6690789	0.63345	0.6865
		High	13	48			11	11																					6806	2632	0.6132824	KNN	0.659976	
Lowes Point 8/14/01	T1	Low	47	17			1	3																					4556	2440	0.4644425			
		High		29	13		9	8	11																				4830	1206	0.7503106			
	T2	Low	38	26			14																							8930	2510	0.718925		
		High	20	24			22	27	2						8														10506	2154	0.7949743			
	T3	Low	1	17			44	14																						5700	2346	0.5884211		
		High		49	9		20	19																						9312	3146	0.6621564		
	T4	Low	28	20	3		1	29																						6480	1954	0.6984568	0.61756	0.731955
		High		46	9		32	33		3																				15006	4196	0.7203785	LOP	0.674758
																	Avg. for all LowMarsh trans.-->			0.56862														
																	Avg. for all HighMarsh transects-->			0.660586														
																				Low	High	Site												
																				BAC	0.5636	0.7097	0.636645											
																				CAC	0.6634	0.6579	0.660648											
																				COI	0.4633	0.59822	0.53078											
																				FRC	0.5356	0.59749	0.566565											
																				FRCA	0.5925	0.6015	0.596984											
																				HAC	0.4954	0.74304	0.619239											
																				KNN	0.6335	0.6865	0.659976											
																				LOP	0.6176	0.73195	0.674758											
																				<b>ALL SITES</b>	<b>0.5706</b>	<b>0.66579</b>	<b>0.6182</b>											

## **APPENDIX E**

**Faunal/Quadrat Data: Raw faunal community diversity data**



Poplar Island Marsh Monitoring, Summer 2001: Fauna/Quadrat Data																																					
SITE NAME	Transect #	Quadrat #	Number of Individuals per Quadrat																		SITE AVG. By QUAD #																
			Littorina	Melampus	Arachnid (Spider)	Isopod	Hymenoptera	Amphipod	Leafhopper	(Orthoptera)Grass	Coleoptera A	Coleoptera B	Coleoptera C	Coleoptera D	Coleoptera E	Coleoptera F	Coleoptera G	(Orthoptera) Crick	Lepidoptera	Uca	Un-ID'd Insect	Un-ID'd Insect A	Un-ID'd Insect B	Arachnid (mite)	Ribbed Mussel	Hemiptera	Fish fry	heteroclitis (dead)	Unknown Frog	Unknown Snail	N(N-1)	SUM ni(ni-1)	Simpson's Diver. Index	Quadrat #1	Quadrat #2	Quadrat #3	Quadrat #4
COACHES ISLAND 8/22/01. note: T1Q1 & T2Q2 on sandy dune. T1Q4 also sandy	T1	Q1			13		1																							182	156	0.1429					
		Q2			9	1			11																						420	182	0.5667				
		Q3			5		3																								56	26	0.5357				
		Q4					13																								156	156	0				
	T2	Q1			4		3																								42	18	0.5714				
		Q2			2				2																						12	4	0.6667				
		Q3		4	2				2																						56	16	0.7143				
		Q4			8				1	1						1															110	56	0.4909				
	T3	Q1																													0	0	0				
		Q2			8				2																						90	58	0.3556				
		Q3			9						1															25	4				1482	684	0.5385				
		Q4			3	1																									12	6	0.5				
	T4	Q1					7	7			3																				272	90	0.6691				
		Q2			9	2	45	6																							3782	2084	0.449				
		Q3			2	1	6									1															90	32	0.6444				
		Q4			4		1		1	1						1															56	12	0.7857	CI	0.345851	0.509464	0.608226
FRONT CREEK 8/20/01. Note: T1Q2, T1Q3, T2Q3, T3Q2 had 2-6" water	T1	Q1					14	6																						380	212	0.4421					
		Q2		18	4			7																							930	362	0.6108				
		Q3		13	3		1	4																							420	174	0.5857				
		Q4		74	6	1	7	3	4																						9120	5492	0.3978				
	T2	Q1					4																								12	12	0				
		Q2		17	4	25	7											1													2862	926	0.6765				
		Q3		4	14				5																						702	220	0.6866				
		Q4		22	2	1	2	1																							812	466	0.4261				
	T3	Q1		10	1	1		1	3																						272	96	0.6471				
		Q2	1	11	5		1																								380	130	0.6579				
		Q3		25	13	9	10			3												1									3540	924	0.739				
		Q4		2	4	1	16			1																					552	254	0.5399				
	T4	Q1		10	1			1	3																						210	96	0.5429				
		Q2																													0	0	0				
		Q3																													0	0	0				
		Q4		1			3	1																							20	6	0.7	FRC	0.408005	0.486274	0.502827







## **APPENDIX F**

**List of plant species observed during 2001 wetland vegetation monitoring**

**List of Plants Observed During 2001 Poplar Island Marsh Monitoring**

Line Intercept Data		Quadrat Data	
Species	Common Name	Species	Common Name
<i>Ameranthus cannabinis</i>	waterhemp	<i>Ameranthus cannabinis</i>	waterhemp
<i>Ammoph. brevil.</i>		<i>Aster tenuifolius</i>	perennial saltmarsh aster
<i>Aster tenuifolius</i>	perennial saltmarsh aster	<i>Atriplex patula</i>	marsh orach
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	marsh orach	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	saltgrass
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	salt bush, groundsel tree	<i>Iva frutescens</i>	high tide bush, marsh elder
<i>Cuscuta gronovii</i>	dodder	<i>Juncus romerianus</i>	black needlerush
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	saltgrass	<i>Kosteletzkya virginica</i>	marsh mallow / seaside mall.
<i>Germander</i>	Germander	<i>Limonium carolinianum</i>	sea lavender
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	rose mallow	<i>Lythrum lineare</i>	saltmarsh loostrife
<i>Ipomoea sagittata</i>	arrowleaf morning glory	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	common reed
<i>Iva frutescens</i>	high tide bush, marsh elder	<i>Pluchea purpurescens</i>	saltmarsh fleabane
<i>Juncus romerianus</i>	black needlerush	<i>Salicornia sp.</i>	glasswort
<i>Kosteletzkya virginica</i>	marsh mallow / seaside mall.	<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	Olney's three-square
<i>Limonium carolinianum</i>	sea lavender	<i>Scirpus robustus</i>	saltmarsh bulrush
<i>Lythrum lineare</i>	saltmarsh loostrife	<i>Solidago sempivirens</i>	seaside goldenrod
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	switchgrass	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	saltmarsh cordgrass
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	common reed	<i>Spartina cynosuroides</i>	big cordgrass
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	loblolly pine	<i>Spartina patens</i>	saltmeadow hay
<i>Pluchea purpurescens</i>	saltmarsh fleabane	<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	wood sage
<i>Salicornia sp.</i>	glasswort		
<i>Setaria parviflora</i>	knotroot foxtail		
<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	Olney's three-square		
<i>Scirpus robustus</i>	saltmarsh bulrush		
<i>Solidago sempivirens</i>	seaside goldenrod		
<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	saltmarsh cordgrass		
<i>Spartina cynosuroides</i>	big cordgrass		
<i>Spartina patens</i>	saltmeadow hay		
<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	wood sage		