Monitoring Marsh Enhancement and Near Shore Placement: Turbidity and Sediment Profile Imaging

Kelsey Fall (USACE-ERDC) Seven Mile Island Innovation Lab Working Group Meeting June 16, 2021

#### **Turbidity Monitoring: Background Conditions October 2019-December 2019**





Preliminary monitoring:

Apart from punctuated wind events, the area is generally calm and waters are clear.

Generally:

- Small waves, <0.25 m</li>
- Weak current (~0.1 m/s),
- Low turbidity (~10 ntus)
- Low SSC (~10–20 mg/L).

Spikes in turbidity (250-380 ntus) during periods of winds >5m/s (11 mph, correspond to passage of Nor'easter and southerly wind event.

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## Turbidity Monitoring During Placement: On marsh platform & in water, along marsh edge





Little to no turbidity plume, outside of the tidal creek mouth on NE side of island.



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September 2020 Gull Island (in water, marsh edge)



High turbidity close to the pipe (~250-300 feet, ~300-400 ntus). Direction of plume related to the tide. Berm feature developed.





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## Monitoring during and post nearshore placement with Sediment Profile Imaging Scanner (SPIscan)



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\_\_\_\_\_ 19 cm \_\_\_\_ Material placed from 9/23 to 10/8 (~7500 cu. Yards). SPIscan deployed from 9/23/20-10/30/20 and captured imaged every 2 hours. 71 cm ~5 days Post Placement **End of Placement** Sediment-water igure 2: Sediment Profiling Interface Imaging System, SPIscan (a,b) and example image (c). Oxygenated surface Sediment-water H 4.5 cm - 30.5 cm layer reworked by Interface currents, wave action, Dredged and benthic activity Material Dredged Layer Material Evidence of 13 Layer benthic recovery 14 SPIscan ~70 m/200 ft. NW with 17 18 imaging face parallel to pipe (red x). 19 Native 20 20 21 Bed Native 39.078° 22 22 Layer Bed 23 Layer 24 24 25 25 39.076° 26 26 27 Latitude 39.024° 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

39.072°

-74.784°

-74.781°

-74.778°

Longitude

-74.775°

-74.772°

*Currently in progress: processing images evaluate deposition thickness, consolidation, track surface height (slope), identify benthic organisms and/or features to track recolonization.*