

# Assessment of the Extent of Damage in a Marsh Dieback Site

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# Formula for calculating Damage Index (DI)

$$\mathbf{DI = \Delta RVI - \Delta RMI}$$

DI = Damage Index

RVI = Root-rhizome Viability Index

RMI = Root-rhizome Mortality Index

$\Delta$  = Difference in indices between subsequent data points or sample collection dates

$$DI = \Delta RVI - \Delta RMI$$

To test this formula .....



Approximately 65 m<sup>2</sup> of dead marsh completely recovered in 16 months when there was a 63-unit increase in sΔRVI .

**DI =  $\Delta$  RVI –  $\Delta$  RMI** ---- can be used for assessing the damage to a given marsh site and to predict the loss or recovery of marsh vegetation.

## **Several Limitations .....**

- ..Involves only *Spartina*
- .. No other quantitative method to compare
- .. Formula needs to be refined
- .. ....Many more

## **Possible solution .....** ‘Team work’

--An ecologist to lead a team of researchers.