Assessment of the Extent of Damage in a Marsh Dieback Site

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GCRC 9-13-2018

Funded by GA-DNR-CRD-CI Grant
Formula for calculating Damage Index (DI)

\[ \text{DI} = \Delta \text{RVI} - \Delta \text{RMI} \]

- **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
\[
\text{DI} = \Delta \text{RVI} - \Delta \text{RMI}
\]

To test this formula ……

Approximately 65 m² of dead marsh completely recovered in 16 months when there was a 63-unit increase in s\(\Delta\text{RVI}\).
DI = Δ RVI − Δ 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.