Results of the Sediment Elevation Table (SET) Project in the ACE Basin NERR, South Carolina

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ABSTRACT

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS) and United States Geological Survey as part of the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) has conducted a project to measure relative sea-level change and the effects of human and natural activities that impact estuarine environments. The SET project consists of five years of data collection at each of the 16 stations, to filter out the issues, problems, and damages due to natural events and anthropogenic activities. Differences in the migration patterns and cropped wrack debris are being compared to later geodetic measurements. The project addresses the question of seasonal vegetation growth and decay, effects of drought, and comparison of seasonal vegetation growth and decay, effects of drought, and comparison of seasonal changes in creek migration patterns and cropped wrack debris. The project is also designed to monitor the effects of dredging, flooding, and wildlife activities on the sediment surface and lowered elevations.