

NH SALT MARSH FIELD ASSESSMENT GUIDE (draft 7/1/20)

This document outlines some of the questions to consider when assessing a particular salt marsh in the field and is an appropriate next step after using the GIS-based tools provided by the NH Salt Marsh Plan. This is a working document that will be updated periodically to help prompt new ideas for assessing and sustaining marshes. This guide was developed in collaboration with the Advisory Group for the NH Salt Marsh Plan, for more information see: www.greatbay.org/salt-marsh-plan.

Field Assessment

Draft datasheet (to accompany full size map print out of marsh unit)

1. Are all plant communities accounted for? Please note the presence of rare species or use a map to indicate if there has been any expansion of invasive species including species, relative size, and location.

Approximate portion of marsh shaded by trees (give date and time of day):

2. Are there any berms or hydrological barriers that were not picked up in GIS model? Please note on the map, including relative size and location.

What TYPE of berm is it likely to be and what is the cause? Agricultural berms are often a priority for restoration.

Feasibility – is development in the marsh migration pathway removeable, or is it critical infrastructure or does it protect critical infrastructure? Is the development a historic resource or protect historic resources?

3. Are there any signs of erosion, increased pooling, or significant loss of marsh that was not in the GIS model? Please note on map including relative size and location.
4. What is the average depth and width of ditches on the marsh? If present, please choose 3-5 largest ditches and indicate measurements on map.

5. How is access to this site (good, ok, challenging)? Please use a map and written notes to indicate where you parked, how you entered marsh, and navigability of various portions of marsh.

6. Are there any other things worth noting about this marsh? Please indicate here or use a map if noting the location of features.

Site Considerations

1. How many landowners does this site have? Please use this space to describe any specific landowner interactions.

2. Are there any cultural resources on this marsh unit? Use this space to describe them and any potential complications they could cause.

3. Does this site require any special permits? If so, list.

4. Is this marsh site in a special overlay district within the municipality?