



Name	Delaware Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Index
Description	<p>The purpose of the Marsh Vulnerability Index (MVI) is to develop a health index for <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> in salt marshes. Real-Time Kinematic GPS was used to attain elevation data for <i>S. alterniflora</i> to determine the elevational growth range. LiDAR was used during project design to ensure a representative elevation range was sampled. The MVI classifies healthy, degrading, and severely degrading short-form <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> marsh regions .</p> <p>The MVI will be essential for evaluating wetland vulnerability to sea-level rise on a watershed or statewide basis, while also enabling the strategic placement of monitoring resources to enhance efforts to understand the future evolution and migration potential of Delaware's tidal wetlands, as well as promoting conservation and restoration. MVI classification optimizes the monitoring efforts and resources to the highest levels possible, so the broadest extent of Delaware's tidal wetlands may be evaluated and managed. The MVI also classifies healthy and degrading short-form <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> marshes based on a correlation between degrading marshes and low elevations. With success, the MVI can be used in Mid-Atlantic States for regional comparison and planning.</p>
Type	- PRODUCTS: Plans, Assessments, Studies
Sector	- Natural Ecosystems
Focus Area	- Coasts and Climate Resilience (including sea-level rise) - Conservation/ Restoration of Sensitive Species and Habitats
Region	- Regional Or State -- Mid-Atlantic
Lead Agencies	Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
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