

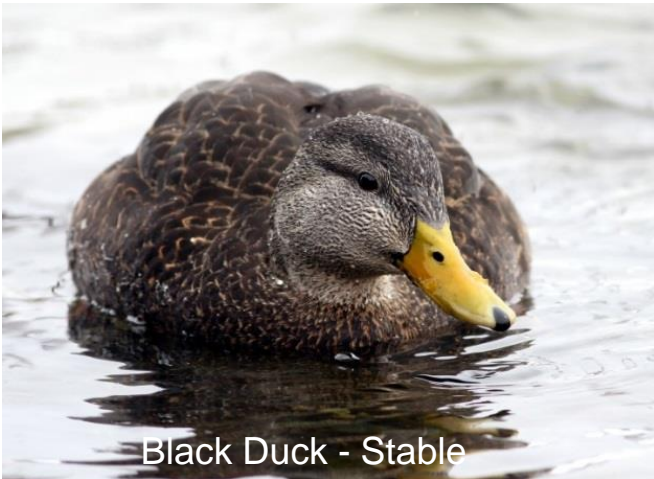
**Building Coastal Resiliency
along the Atlantic Coast through
Salt Marsh Bird Conservation**



Who we Are

- 17 states and territories
- 4 federal agencies
- 4 NGOs
- academic institutions





Our Focus

Coastal Marshes and Three Flagship Species



Other Birds in the Coastal System



Why Salt Marsh?

- US has 3.8M ac of salt marsh
- 80k ac lost/year
- Significant degradation of remaining marsh
- Salt marsh birds are in decline – some steeply (85-95% population loss)
- Nest flooding is driving declines

An aerial photograph of Seaside, New Jersey, showing a coastal town with numerous houses and buildings. The water is dark and appears to be flooded, with some houses partially submerged. The sky is overcast. A large white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

Why Salt Marsh?

- 4% of the landscape, 40% of the people, 47% of the economy
- Marshes prevented >\$625B in damages to private property during hurricane Sandy
- \$1 of restoration leads to \$6 in cost savings and reduction in human harm

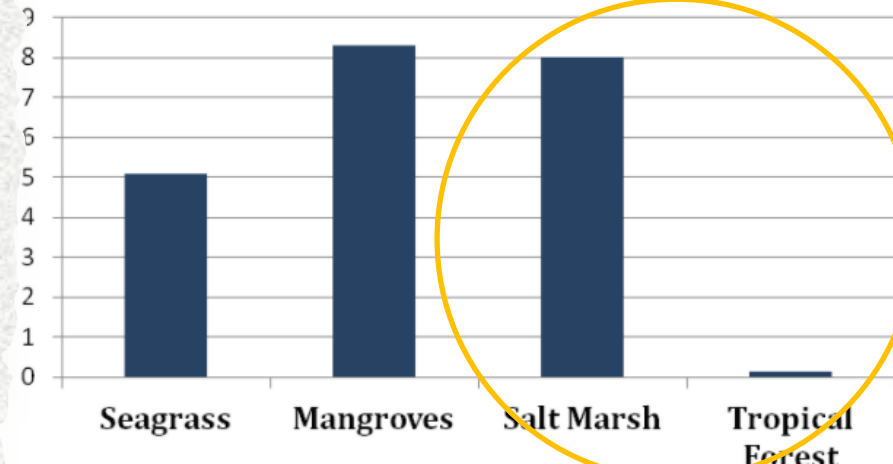
Seaside, NJ post Sandy

Why Salt Marsh?

- Blue Carbon capture *10-50x greater* than forests
- Carbon is stored for *millennia* rather than decades



Annual Carbon Sequestration Rate³



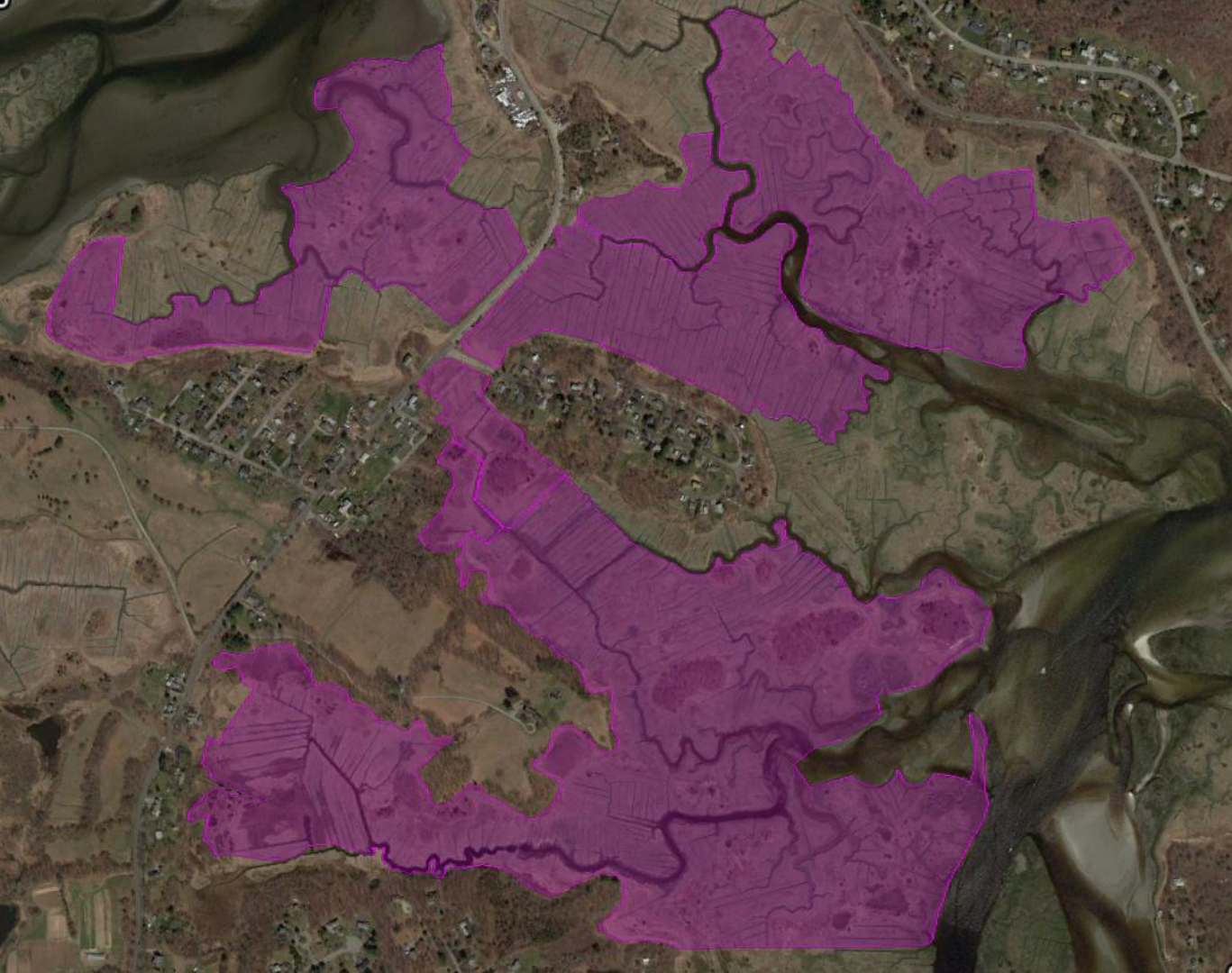


Why Salt Marsh?

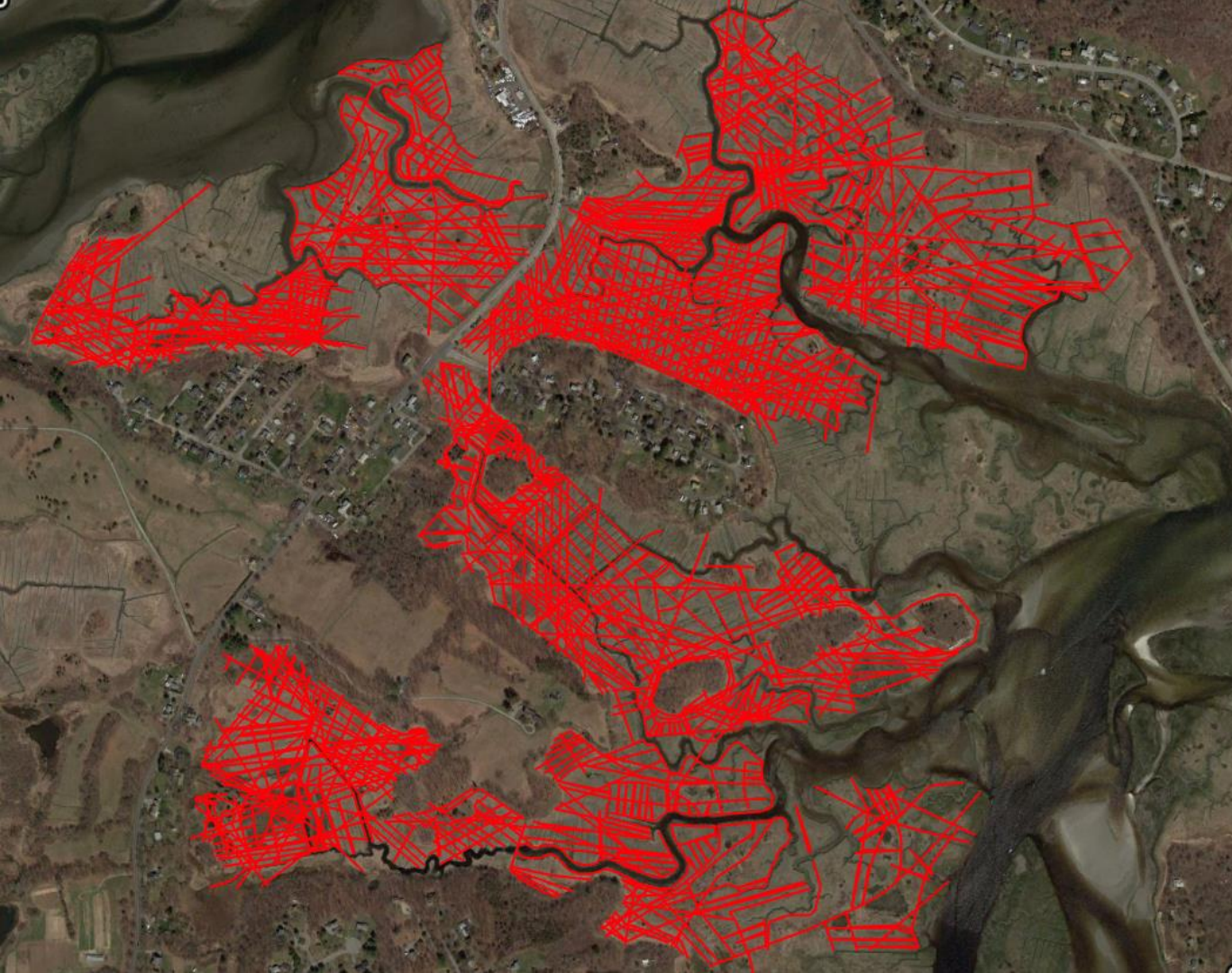
- Support multimillion dollar fisheries – 75% of commercial fish and shellfish harvest



Human alterations accelerate
flooding and marsh loss



Great Marsh,
MA: 294 acres



1,000+
agricultural
berms



1,300 ditches
identified



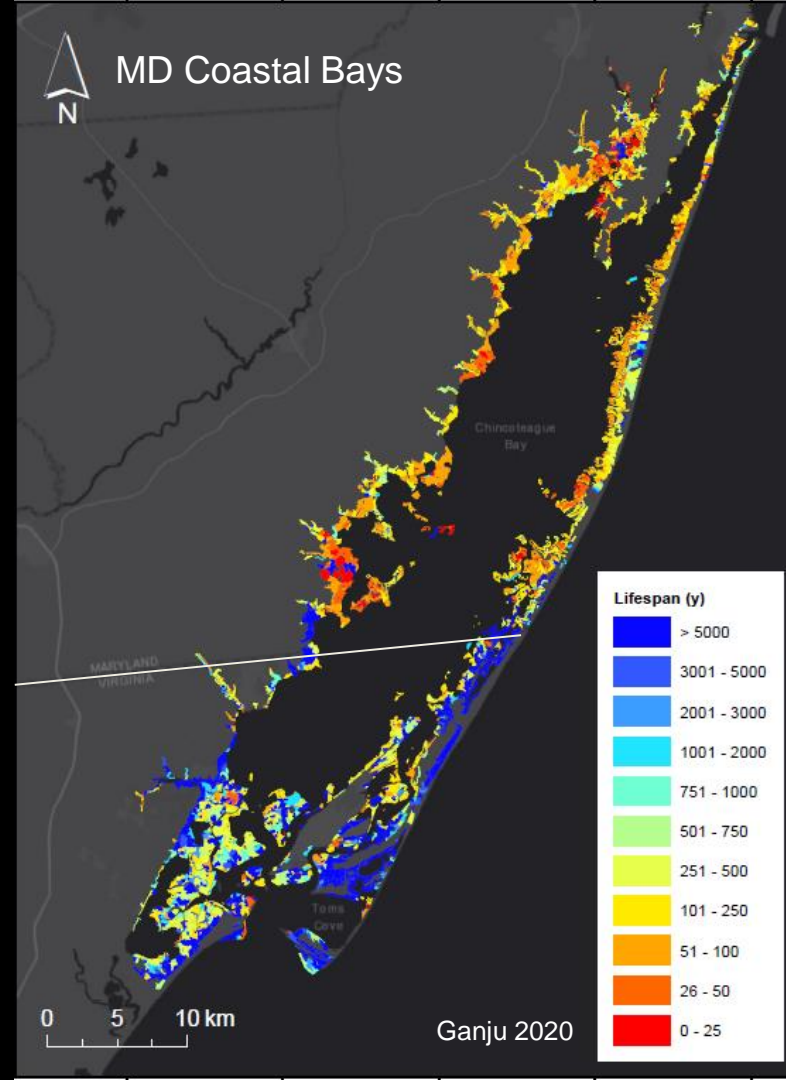
**Addressing human
impacts =>
ecosystem and
community resiliency**



Return on Investment is High

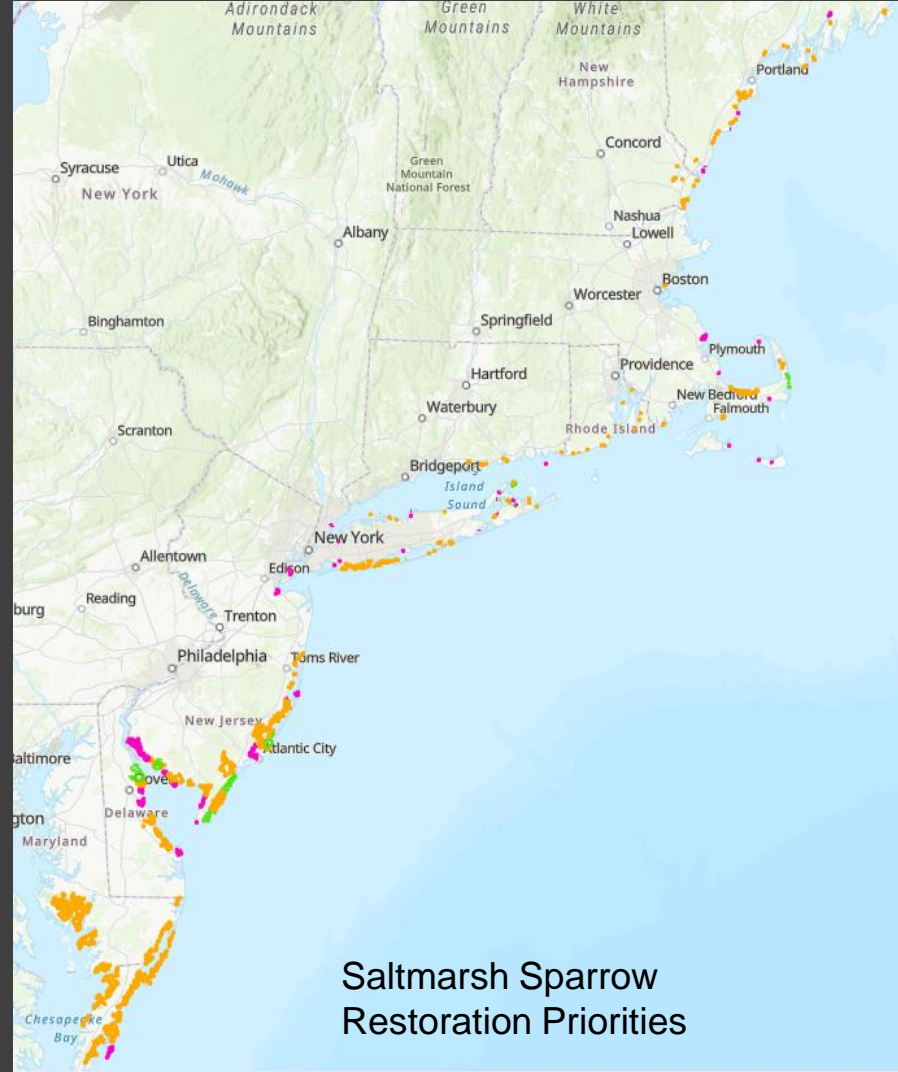
MD – Extensive ditching and marsh alteration – average lifespan: 0-500 yrs

VA – little ditching and alteration – average lifespan 500->5000 years



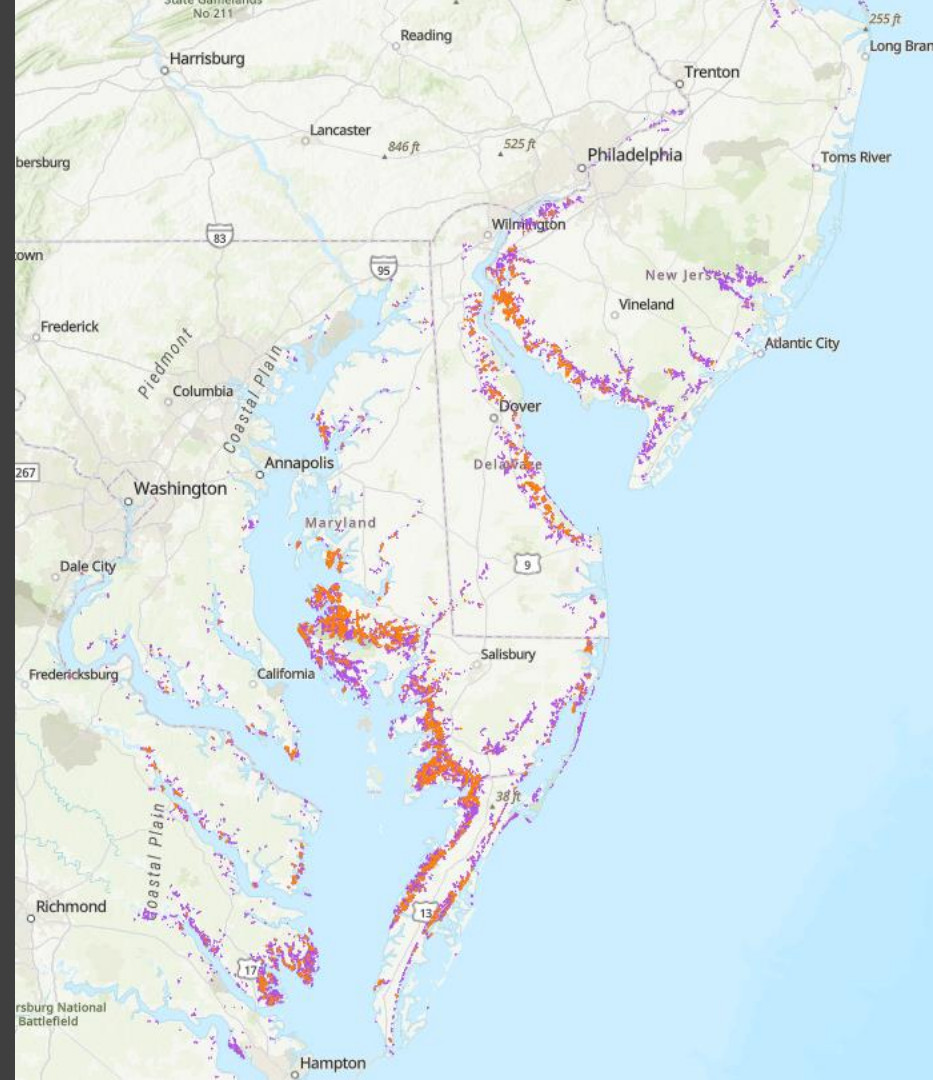
Restoration Priorities

- Identified highest priority marshes (SALS) in each state from ME-VA
- ~200 restoration projects ID'd within them with associated cost estimates
- ~\$200M/yr needed to meet resiliency goals



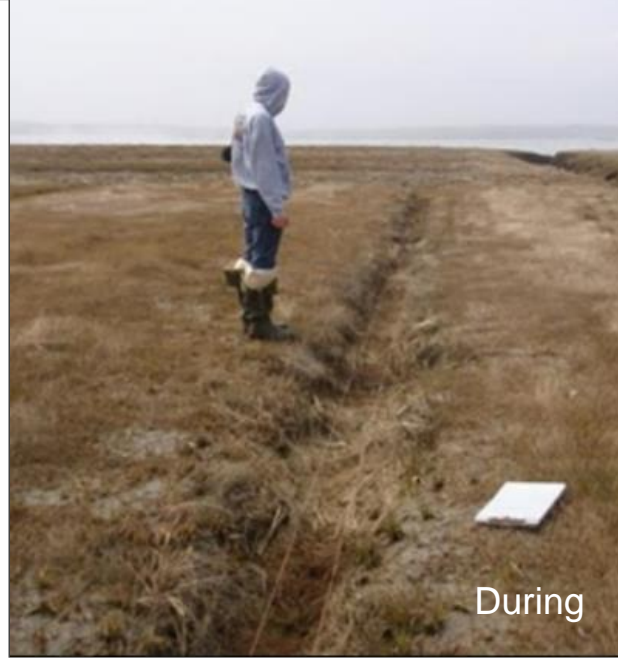
Marsh Migration Protection Priorities

- Used TNC data to identify most resilient marsh migration corridors
- ~50% are unprotected





Before



During



After

Ditch Remediation



Before



During



After

Runnelling



Elevation Enhancement



Facilitated Marsh Migration



Thank you!

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