

# Evaluating Methods to Establish Vegetation for Salt Marsh Island Restoration in Jamaica Bay, New York

**Patti Rafferty**

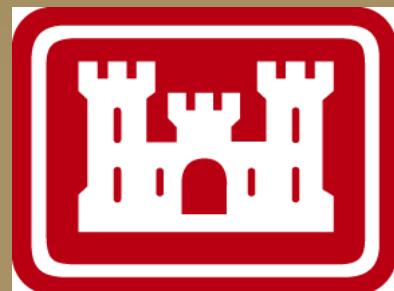
National Park Service, Northeast Region

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# Jamaica Bay Marsh Island Restoration Planning, Monitoring & Adaptive Management Team



THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ





# Marsh Restoration Monitoring Goals

- Determine factors contributing to the success or failure of the restoration
- Evaluate various techniques to establish vegetation
- Identify problems requiring remedial action
- Inform future restoration efforts
- Better understand factors contributing to salt marsh loss

# Jamaica Bay Marsh Island Restoration Project Sites



# Elders East Marsh Restoration

Construction: 2006

Area: 16 ha (10 ha)

Planting Method: Planted with Plugs and Perimeter Quart Pots

Monitoring: 2005-2012



Photo courtesy of Galvin Brothers, Inc.

# Elders East Marsh Restoration

## Planting Method:

Planted plugs and  
Quart pots

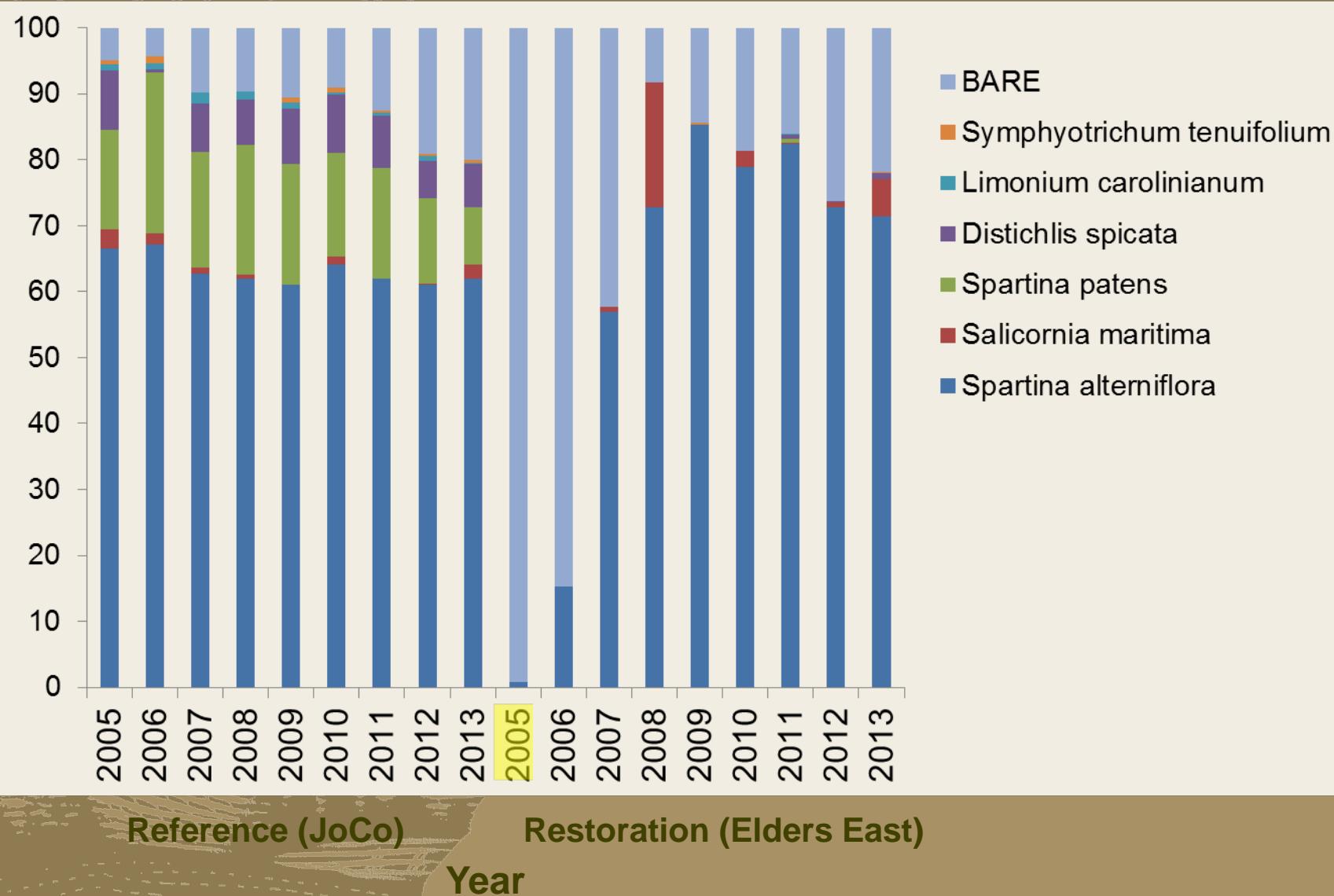




Elders East  
September, 2103

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

# Mean Live Canopy Cover



# Elders West Marsh Restoration

Construction: 2010

Area: 16 ha

Planting Methods:

- Hummock Transplants
- Planted Plugs (high marsh)
- Natural Recruitment

Monitoring: 2005 and 2010-2014

05/20/2010

# Elders Point West Marsh Restoration



## Hummock Transplants:

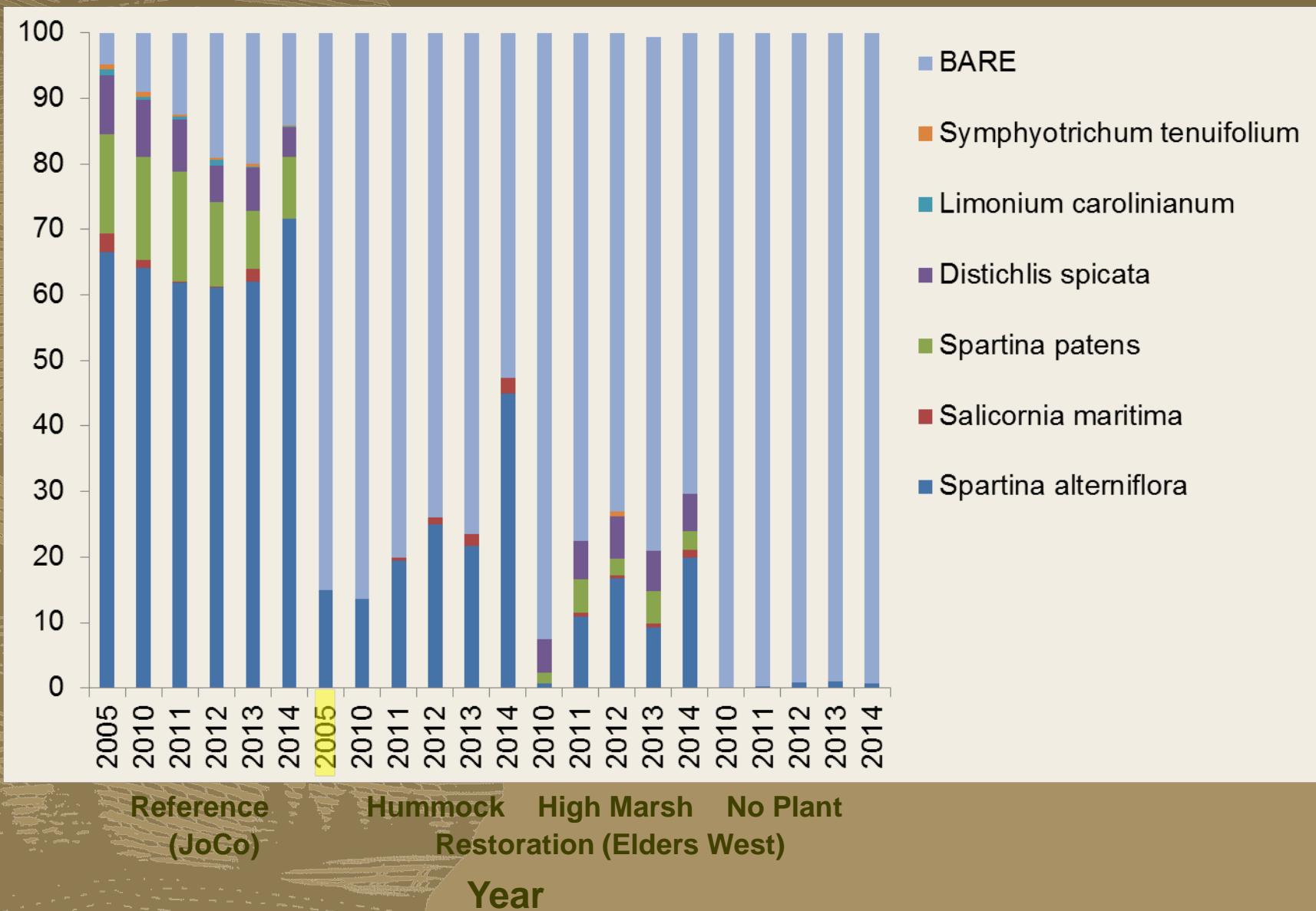
- Conserve Existing Vegetation
- Vegetative Propagation
- Conserve Benthic Community



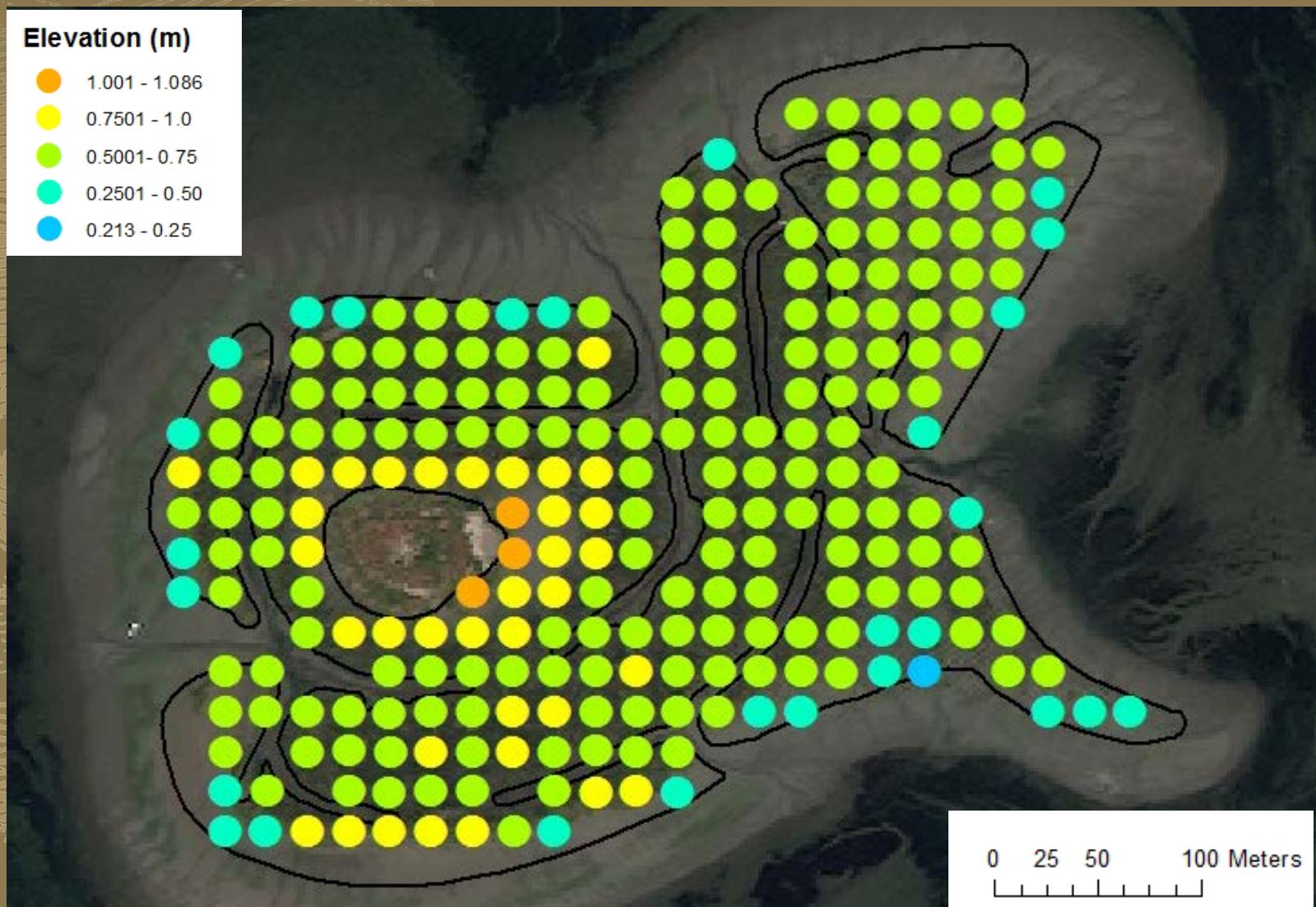
# Elders West, September 2013



# Mean Live Canopy Cover



# Elders West, September 2013



# Yellow Bar Marsh Restoration

Construction: 2012

Area: 18 ha

Planting Methods: Hummock Transplants

Planted Plugs (high marsh)

Seeding

Monitoring: 2011-2016



# Yellow Bar Marsh Restoration



## Planting Methods:

- Seed Drill
- Hummock Transplants
- Planted Plugs (high marsh)

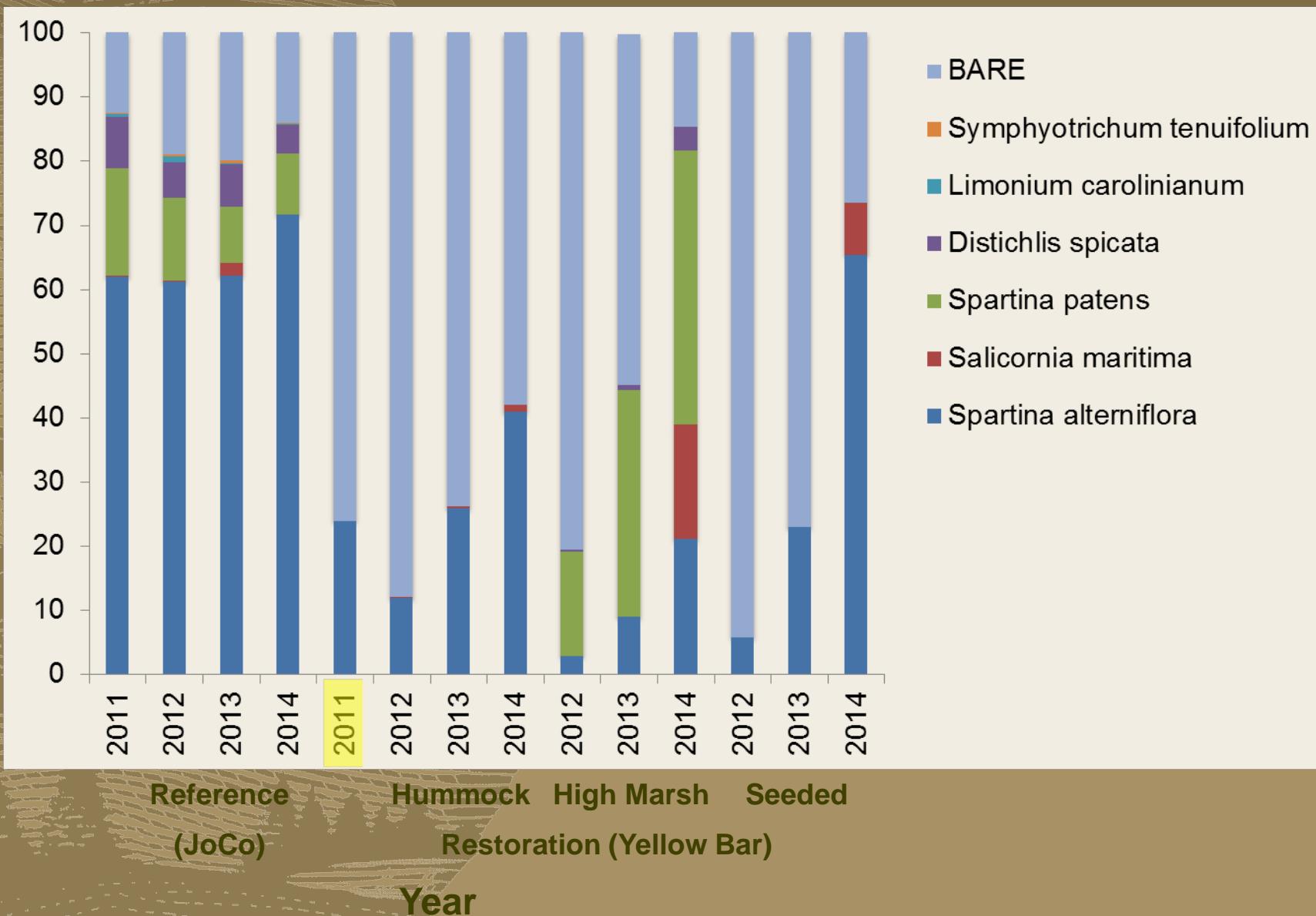




Yellow Bar  
September, 2013

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

# Mean Live Canopy Cover



# Funding and Project Support:

**US Army Corps of Engineers, New York District**

**Port Authority of New York and New Jersey**

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

**New York City Department of Environmental Protection**

**National Park Service, Gateway National Recreation Area**

**National Park Service, Northeast Region**

# Project Staff, Volunteers and Interns

2005

Katie Hietala  
Jon Fradua  
Jessica Browning  
Ajoa Perkins  
Lara Peterson  
Rita Papagian  
Kilian Stehfest  
Jolene Willis  
Nicholas VanVoorthuysen  
Becca Bannon

2006

Katie Hietala  
Sarah Maier  
Katy Brown  
Tim Chu  
Kathryn Seaver  
Damien Drisco  
Emily Voigt  
Catherine Donohue

2007

Jolene Willis  
Tim Hearns  
Eileen Jones  
Dan Kleinman  
Susan McCormick

2008

Jolene Willis  
Dawn Sierer  
Mark Peterson  
Kathryn Bradley  
Brian Tate

2009

Dan Landgrebe  
Leah Wilson  
Anthony Locatelli  
Danielle Iuliucci  
Sarah Lumban Tobing  
Erin Wood

2010

Scott Breeman  
Tom Clifford  
Ian Hartzler  
Jennifer Pati  
Mike Demasi  
Oceane Peiffer-Smadja  
Madeline Cutting  
Danielle Regis

2011

Josh Rudder  
Mike Tanis  
Alecio Lopez  
Guthrie Bridge  
Jenny Li  
Dan Parker  
Martin Angelo  
Sarah Parkin  
Ross Diamond  
Nicholas Medina  
Pierpaolo Bellachioma  
Sonia Kumar  
Isabelle Stinnette

2012

Jolene Willis  
Jacob Plotnick  
Susan Robinson  
Josh Rudder  
Guthrie Bridge  
Farshad Shafiei  
Brooke Costanza  
Katharine Perry  
Andrew Ferreira  
Olivia Richter

2013

Jolene Willis  
Megan Dethloff  
Sarah Uihlein  
Jose Alvarez  
Ashley Bruno

2014

Jolene Willis  
Barry Udelson  
Scott Quigley  
Joshua Helms  
Evan Kwityn  
Michael Henkin  
Rachael Dye





10/22/2010

# Summary – Jamaica Bay

Reference and restored marshes are more resilient to sea level rise when compared to control marshes

Live vegetated cover and aboveground biomass have increased annually at the restored marsh

Total live vegetated canopy cover, aboveground biomass, and belowground productivity do not differ between the restored and reference marsh

Low root:shoot ratios could indicate allocation of resources to aboveground annual tissue which could limit sediment organic accumulation