



**Plum Island Ecosystems-LTER Schoolyard Program**  
**Mass Audubon's Salt Marsh Science Project**  
**Education Coordinator: Liz Duff**



Measuring Sedimentation Rates



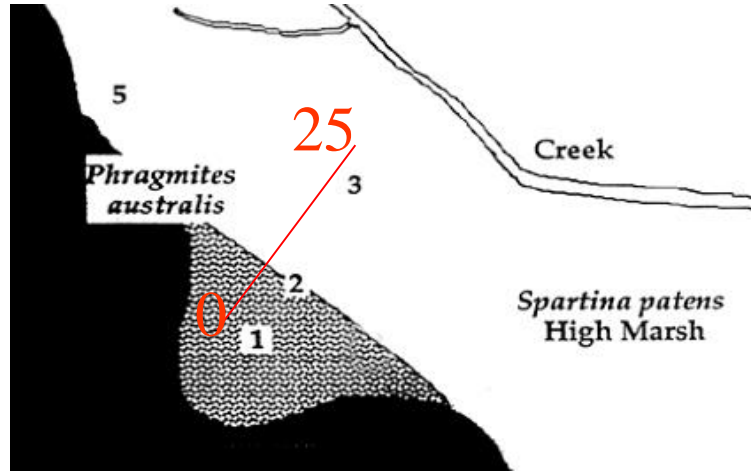
Measuring Salinity



Measuring Biodiversity and *Phragmites*



Study sites include the Plum Island Region and beyond.



- **Field activities** with students include mapping salt marsh distribution of invasive species such as *Phragmites australis*, and perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), quantifying species richness, and measuring salinity.
- **Investigate sea level rise and sedimentation rates** with marker horizons, marsh edge erosion, and vegetation transects.
- **Encourage wetland stewardship actions** such as pulling pepperweed, mapping areas vulnerable to sea level rise and reducing one's carbon footprint.
- **An Annual Coastal Science Conference** brings together teachers and students from participating schools. Students share their findings with each other and with scientists working on the marshes in the region.
- **Support teachers and students** by developing materials, training teachers, and participating in classroom and field activities.
- **Developing lesson plans** based on PIE-LTER Research such as Data Nuggets <https://pie-liter.ecosystems.mbl.edu/content/schoolyard-k-12>
- Salt Marsh Science Project data base and website holds **long-term student data (17- 23 years) from 13 sites** [www.massaudubon.org/saltmarsh](http://www.massaudubon.org/saltmarsh)



Inspiring Stewardship



Engaging Urban Students