

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE HEALTH OF THE GREAT SALT POND AND ITS MARSHES, AND HOW THEY WILL LIKELY BE AFFECTED BY SEA LEVEL RISE AND INCREASED STORMS?

There are several ongoing efforts to collect important data that can be used to inform future initiatives to protect the health of the GSP, and to increase BI's resilience to the impacts of climate change.

BI Salt Marsh Monitoring by The Nature Conservancy:

TNC conducts a variety of surveys and sampling as part of its larger study of the Great Salt Pond in order to better understand the pond's ecological function as a critical nursery habitat and offshore refuge for a wide array of species at all stages of life so that they can advise and support efforts to help keep the GSP a sustainable resource. Salt marsh monitoring of 24 fixed vegetation plots is conducted with nine years of data collected to date.

- <https://www.natureblockisland.org/gsp-reports>

Water Quality Testing by the Committee for the Great Salt Pond:

Water quality is monitored with URI's Watershed Watch to track contaminants and pollution sources. Pollution comes from boats, upland runoff, agriculture, and septic system failures. Data helps identify where pollution occurs and informs future management. Monitoring tracks changes over time to protect the pond and marshes.

- <https://www.cgspblockisland.org/initiatives>
- <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e52de787eb5244acb1ea2fa62dcec5c3/>

Marsh Migration Mapping by RI-DEM and URI:

RI-DEM and URI used the SLAMM model to map potential marsh migration corridors under sea level rise. They prioritized key parcels intersecting these corridors for conservation. A web tool now allows users to view migration areas and important parcels by town.

- RI Salt Marsh Conservation: <https://ri-salt-marsh-conservation-edc.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Salt Marsh Coastal Parcel Planning Tool: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d8e34046c32246b0ba4026bdce1d160b>