# Promoting Sustainability of Sensitive SAV Habitats through Innovative Dredging and Placement Practices

## PROBLEM

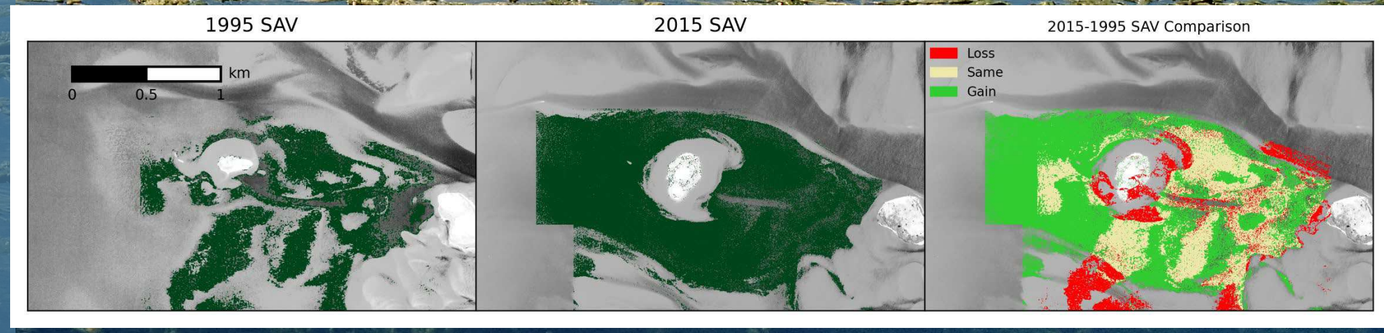
- SAV habitats valued at $37,500/ha/yr
- 30% of global habitat lost since 1879
- 20% of SAV habitat may be lost due to SLR by 2100
- Perceived negative impacts preclude BUDM opportunities to create SAV habitats

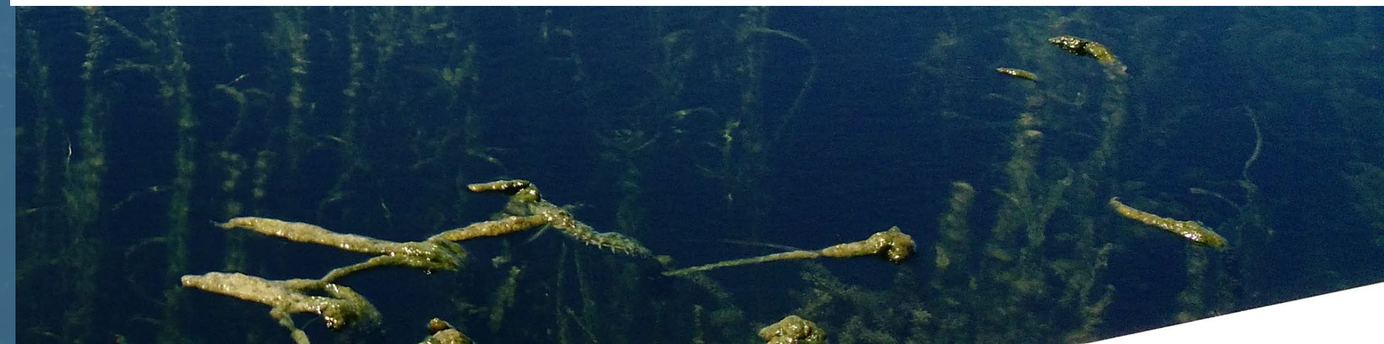
## SOLUTION

- Identify and demonstrate BU applications that create/expand/restore SAV habitats
- Differentiate between short-term impacts and long-term benefits of ongoing BU projects in SAV habitats
- Quantify EWN benefits from BU in SAV habitats

## IMPACT

- Increase annual USACE BU (towards 70% goal)
- Remove unnecessary regulatory hurdles
- Accomplish navigation mission with less impedance (lower costs/less maintenance)



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## APPLICATIONS

- Provide Districts with additional BU opportunities at lower costs than existing disposal options
- Reduce channel shoaling through sediment stabilization
- Create additional carbon storage

## STATUS

- Presentation at Coastal Estuarine Research Federation (Completed Nov 2021)
- TN: Dredged material can benefit SAV habitats (in review)
- Story Map: Opportunistic expansion of SAV habitats in USACE Districts following BUDM placement (Completed)
- Completed field survey at Barnegat Bay (Aug 2022)

## BENEFITS

- Improve SAV habitat coverage, density, and resilience
- Overturn negative misconceptions associated with open-water placement near SAV habitats
- Reduce distance to placement areas
- Increase EWN benefits:
  - reduced channel shoaling
  - increased carbon sequestration

## WHAT'S NEXT

With additional resources, we will collaborate with USACE Districts to identify impediments and research needs for SAV BUDM opportunities.