

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2001



**Colington Cut Mitigation Site
Dare County
TIP No. B-2024**



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SUMMARY

The Colington Creek and Cut Mitigation Sites are located in Dare County. Originally planted in 1995, both sites were designed as mitigation for marsh wetland impacts associated with bridge project B-2024. The Colington Creek site, having been deemed a success, was closed in 1999. Monitoring of the Colington Cut site is presented in this report.

Per agency request in March, 2001, the Department has fully investigated the mowing that was noted in last year's report. It appears that the local NCDOT Dare County Maintenance office may have been involved in the hand mowing activity. In addition, two "No Mowing" signs have been installed to prevent such activity in the future.

After six years of monitoring, the Colington Cut site shows by visual observation an aerial coverage of 95% with 75% survival rate, exceeding the minimum 50% area coverage and 50% survival rate.

NCDOT recommends discontinuing monitoring of the site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

The Colington Cut and Creek Mitigation sites are located at Bridges No. 5 and 6 along SR 1217 in Dare County (Figure 1). The sites consist of approximately 1.27 acres of mitigation for marsh wetland impacts associated with project B-2024.

1.2 Purpose

In order for a mitigation site to be considered successful, a site must meet success criteria in both hydrology and vegetation. This report details the vegetation monitoring in 2000 at the Colington Cut Mitigation Site. The Colington Creek site was previously closed out on October 15, 1999, having met vegetation success. Hydrologic monitoring was not required for either site.

1.3 Project History

July 1995	Site planted
August 1995	Vegetation Monitoring (1 mo.)
October 1996	Vegetation Monitoring (1 yr.)
September 1997	Vegetation Monitoring (2 yr.)
August 1998	Vegetation Monitoring (3 yr.)
June 1999	Site treated for Phragmites
October 1999	Vegetation Monitoring (4 yr.)
October 2000	Site treated for Phragmites
October 2000	Vegetation Monitoring (5 yr.)
August 2001	Vegetation Monitoring (6 yr)

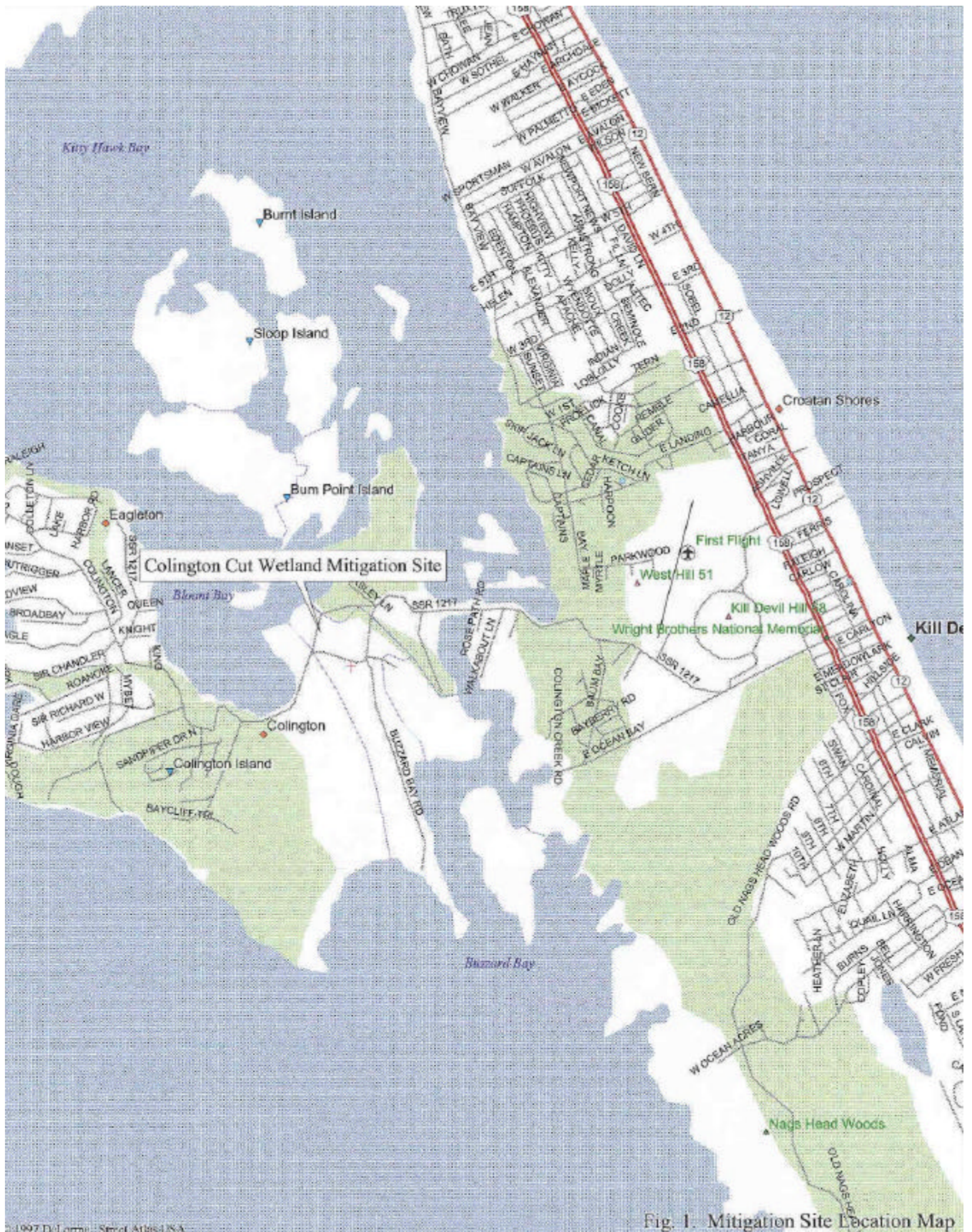


Fig. 1. Mitigation Site Location Map

2.0 VEGETATION: COLINGTON CUT MITIGATION SITE (YEAR 6 MONITORING)

2.1 Success Criteria

Success Criteria states that there must be a 50% survival rate of planted species and 50% aerial coverage for at least three consecutive years.

2.2 Description of Species

The following marsh grass species were planted in the Wetland Restoration Area:

Brackish Marsh on-site (creating approx. 0.50 acres)

2.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring

Site (ON SITE)	<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>	<i>Scirpus</i> sp.	Other	% Coverage (6 year)
C. Cut	75 %	15 %	5 %	95 %

Site Notes: Site was planted with *Juncus roemerianus* in July 1995. The site has been treated numerous times for phragmites. Species noted include: smartweed, *Panicum* sp., golden rod, phragmites, *Sesbania* sp., and *Aster* sp.

A portion of the Colington Cut Site was hand-mowed in 2000. Both the telephone company and the power company were contacted about the mowed, but denied responsibility. NCDOT's Division Roadside Environmental Unit, as well as NCDOT's Division and County Maintenance Offices were also contacted. There is evidence that on one occasion NCDOT County Maintenance did some selective hand mowing on site at the request of local citizens. All personnel have been notified as to the limits of the mitigation site, and requested not to initiate any mowing or clearing within these limits. Also two "No mowing" signs were posted in January 2002 (see photos), to prevent future mowing activities.

2.4 Conclusions

There were approximately 1.27 acres of marsh planted both on site and off site. There were no plots established on either site. By visual observation the Colington Cut Site had an aerial coverage of 95% with 90% survival rate, exceeding the minimum 50% area coverage and 50% survival rate.

Colington Cut



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5 (Installed no mowing sign)



Photo 6 (Installed no mowing sign)