SEAGRASSES AS INDICATORS OF ECOSYSTEM CHANGE IN FLORIDA BAY

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CHANGES IN SEAGRASS COMMUNITY STRUCTURE WILL BE USED AS THE CENTRAL PERFORMANCE MEASURE TO ASSESS CERP SUCCESS IN SOUTHERN COASTAL MODULE
SEAGRASS DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE:

- SAV COVER IS VISUALLY ASSESSED USING A MODIFIED BRAUN-BLANQUET COVER ABUNDANCE ANALYSIS.
- EIGHT 0.25 M² QUADRATS ARE EXAMINED AT EACH STATION.
- MONITORING CONDUCTED ANNUALLY AT THE END OF THE DRY SEASON (MAY OR JUNE).

Braun/Blanquet Cover Abundance Scale

0.1 = Solitary shoot with small cover
0.5 = Few shoots with small cover
1.0 = Numerous shoots, < 5% cover
2.0 = Any number of shoots, 5-25% cover
3.0 = Any number of shoots, 26-50% cover
4.0 = Any number of shoots, 51-75% cover
5.0 = Any number of shoots, 76-100% cover
Mainland – *Thalassia* dominant; Monotypic, dense *Halodule*; *Ruppia* along margins in low salinity.

Northeast – Sparse, patchy *Thalassia*; Locally abundant *Halodule*

Interior – Dense *Thalassia*; *Halodule* in isolated patches

East Central – Sparse, patchy *Thalassia* (but dense when there is enough sediment); Small *Halodule* patches

Gulf – Dense *Thalassia* interspersed with *Halodule* and *Syringodium* (especially in depths > 3 meters).

Atlantic – Sparse *Thalassia* in basins; Dense *Thalassia* on banks.

Modified from Zieman, Fourquean & Iverson, 1989
Johnson Key Basin

Mean Braun-Blanquet Density (+ SE)

Thalassia
Halodule
Syringodium

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