

## Sediment accumulation processes in saltmarshes: A comparison between degrading and restored sites in the Blackwater Estuary, Essex, UK

Darryl Price, Coastal & Estuarine Research Unit, UCL, London

- Sediment accumulation critical for maintenance of marsh elevation; some key questions about processes remain
- Measured sediment deposition and retention across degrading natural marsh and managed realignment site in Essex, UK
- Results focus on influence of vegetation at various spatial scales
- Unvegetated sites have slightly higher sedimentation rates, even when confounding factors (e.g. elevation) removed
- Clear distinction between level of sediment retention – almost double amount of sediment retained at vegetated sites
- Indicates vegetation more effective at inhibiting resuspension than encouraging sediment deposition