Virginia Coast Reserve

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Site News

- **VCR VII Conceptual Framework**  
  – connectivity and coupled state change dynamics

- **From shifting mosaic to directional change:**  
  - 5% marsh loss  
  - 29% island loss;  
  - 40% shrub expansion  
  - 25 km² seagrass gain

- **Marine heat waves and seagrass resilience**

Zinnert et al. 2016, Deaton et al. 2017
Intertidal marshes are keeping pace with sea-level rise. What are the contributions of marsh belowground biomass?

Subtidal seagrass state change doubles OM burial. How will this be affected by marine heat waves?
VCR Organic Matter

Connectivity and Spatial Resilience

Is loss in one part of the landscape compensated for by gain in another?

Long-term seagrass and oyster reef experiments test habitat adjacency