

Review of: "Comparison of Vegetation Community Diversity, Biomass, and Sediment Properties among Constructed and Reference Salt Marshes at Deer Island, Mississippi, U.S.A."

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article was clear and well-written with very interesting and useful findings of particular interest to the GoM restoration community. I appreciate the detailed methods and analysis sections coupled with the clearly stated motivations for the work. Minor suggestions and comments are below.

1. The add quantitative findings in the abstract to summarize the statistical analyses.
2. Please choose an abbreviation for Latin names following the first use of the full and common names. Authors' choice, simply be consistent.
3. Page 5, final sentence: explore the potential impacts of the berm effects in the discussion if possible. This appears to be a major factor in the study areas response over time, particularly with regards to the inundation and subsequent platform development.
4. Page 6, final sentence of the subsection: Elaborate with a sentence or two as to how the previous work corroborated the reference site as appropriate. The site is on the bay-side of the island while to two study sites are gulf-side.
5. Page 6, 1st sentence: is there available lidar data for a pre-planting or post-planting comparison? This would make for a dense elevation surface for comparison to the point GPS data.
6. Page 7, 2nd sentence: references an elevation contour map but this is not presented in the manuscript. Please show this map for context.
7. Page 7, 2nd paragraph: Is there a tidal station nearby for measured water elevation? This would aid the discussion the study vs reference sites' development.
8. Table 1: Just a curiosity, why were transects the only dataset collected in Fall 2019?
9. Figure 2: An addition of a field picture showing the sampling method would aid the reader.
10. Table 5. Please include a more detailed explanation of the "a,b,ab" notation for statistical significance. It is understandable after a few readings.
11. Figure 5: similar comment as above.
12. Table 6 & Figure 6: Similar comment as above. "c" is used for the first time and it unclear as to the meaning.
13. Page 21, final sentence of section: if the existing literature supports convergence in a few decades, what is the impact of using a 2 year and 10 year site for comparison to a 100 year site?
14. Figure 7: Consider presenting in the results section.

