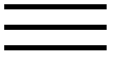


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Abstract

With increasing restoration initiatives for coastal wetlands, the question of “What are we restoring to?”TM becomes more pressing. The goal of this paper is to explore restoration concepts, examples, and challenges from the Pacific and Gulf coasts. One of the fundamental concepts explored is change over time “either in the controlling processes or the restoration structure” and how such changes can be meshed with the goals of various restoration efforts. We subsequently review the concepts of ecosystem trajectories, alternative restoration approaches, and the ideal attributes of functional self-sustaining restoration in the context of realities of restoration planning, business, and politics. The authors conclude that the current focus on self-sustaining

design, and implementation. These realities include the dynamics of the ecosystems being restored, very real constraints that are imposed by the contemporary physical and human landscape, and the need to plan for the long term development of restoration sites recognizing that both project performance and expectations may change over time.



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Keywords

Restoration; Landscape-scale process; Coastal wetland; Self-sustaining ecosystem

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