

Abstract: How does/would/might climate change affect the LA. Wetlands?

Climate has a big affect on wetland and other different land areas. The wetlands in Louisianian not only depend on the weather and climate around the wetland but especially the weather and climates further north because an often problem is with the different sediment and other run off coming down into the wetlands. The climate can also affect the polar ice caps and cause water levels to rise or lower in the wetlands. Along with all of the surrounding climates having an affect on the wetlands the climate directly around he wetlands can greatly increase or decrease water levels and types of species that will continue to live in that particular wetland. This can cause agricultural and recreational aspects to change over long periods of time. Climate is also one of the factors for the wetland disappearance in the last few decades. Many different storms and other weather related events slowly diminish the wetlands and destroy what little storm buffer we already have. When climate does change around the wetlands it can cause species to either thrive or die out. Which can also affect not only recreational activities but real peoples jobs and the surrounding economy. Which makes the current and future state of the climate along with the wetlands something that will affect the way of life of all those living near and far something to take into consideration.

Report: How Does/Would/Might Climate Change Affect the LA. Wetlands?

The purpose of this specific lab was to test and analyze the different conditions in which our own wetlands is either growing or being destroyed by salt water intrusion. In order to test this, several seeds of the same type of marsh grass were planted into eight small containers of dirt. Each different set of containers were watered regularly with increasingly different salinity levels of water.

The first set acted as the control and was watered with regular distilled fresh water. Within the first few weeks it did not have many more sprouts than the other and did not look much different in appearance. However after time it became apparent that this set became thick and much greener than than the others.

The next set of containers was watered with only slightly salted water. Just as the first set it did not look much different in appearance but as the lab came to an end it became apparent that this sets was not only not as thick but not as green as the first set.

The next set of containers was watered with brackish water, most mimicking the actual effects on the current wetlands. Unlike the first two this set of seedlings sprouted slightly less in the first few weeks and not as many continued to grow. Leaving this set with significantly less grass and even a lighter green color.

The last set of containers were watered with overly salted water. This set began with significantly less sprouts than the first three and only one container continued to grow. In the one container barely anything had grown and what did grow slowly became a very pale white color.

In conclusion it is obvious to see in this lab that not only does this salt water intrusion problem affect the amount of wetland that is already there but also the plants, grasses and animals trying to grow and live within the wetlands. This problem is only on the rise and can begin to affect the appearance, land and animals around us.

Project video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PKkOwWMSIs>

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