

Examining Variation in Photosynthetic Pigments in Eelgrass and Smooth Cordgrass

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Grassy coastal ecosystems, including salt marshes and seagrass beds, are highly productive, critical for coastal food webs, and threatened by human activities. In this project, we will examine both within-plant and within-meadow variability in the photosynthetic pigments found in the blades of these grasses. These pigments are both essential for

plant survival, as they allow the plant to capture energy

from the sun and are useful as indicators of the health of the plants.

Understanding how these plants allocate these pigments provides insight into how they may respond to future stressors, particularly continued sea

level rise.

