SALT MARSH STABILITY
IN THE FACE OF SEA-LEVEL RISE

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS
Salt marshes benefit humans by removing carbon from the atmosphere, providing nursery habitat for seafood, storm protection, and erosion control.

STABILITY
Salt marshes can be keep up with sea-level rise by building vertically.

BUILDING UP
Like adding bricks to a wall, salt marshes can build vertically by trapping dirt from the water.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING GRASSY
Marsh grass traps dirt. The more grass there is, the more dirt is trapped, and the more the marsh builds vertically.

GOOD CRAB
Marsh crabs can change the amount of grass in the marsh. Fiddler crabs help the grass grow bigger by burrowing, potentially helping the marsh build up.

BAD CRAB
Another crab, the purple marsh crab, feeds directly on marsh grass. By eating too much grass, this crab could prevent the marsh from building vertically.

For more information on this research, visit bethanywilliams.wordpress.com