

Sounds worth saving: using soundscape ecology for coastal habitat management
Beaches Conference, July 14, 2017
Sue Bickford, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
Notes: Eileen Willard

Sue Bickford met the participants eager to learn about Soundscape Ecology at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve Lab for a brief overview and slide presentation. She explained how recordings from battery operated microphones timed to listen to sounds from specific habitats can make an acoustic map. Sounds generated by rain, wind, thunder (Geophony), sounds generated by animals (Biophony) and sounds from human involvement (Anthrophony) lawn mowers, trains, people on the trails change with time revealing information useful to tracking wildlife.

Students were curious about what equipment was used and the cost. One student wondered if the sounds of green crabs might be monitored in her research project.

Sue spoke about how monitoring for the sounds of indicator species in a specialized environment could help determine ideal habitat for restoring endangered species.

The participants gained knowledge from the field trip to one of Sue's sites and felt the trip to the Wells Reserve opened another avenue to help them with their future scientific studies.