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## Salinity in the Marsh

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“Salinity in the Marsh”  
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Nature Note

## Salinity in the Marsh

The marsh is located down the hill from St. George School next to the Jackson Memorial Library the marsh flows into Ripley Creek. The marsh is home to eagles, gulls, kingfishers, frogs, snakes and more. Our class goes down to the marsh about once every week. It is a quiet and beautiful place to be.

Our class went down to the marsh at 1:03 PM on Thursday, April 25th to collect a sample of water to see what the salinity levels were. The salinity level we got was 0.27 ppt. The place we took the sample was in marsh. The type of weather on April 25th was sunny and a little bit windy.

The significant thing is that there is salt coming into the marsh each month with the highest tides, which could change the spawning habitat for the alewives. In the mid 1980's the alewives stopped coming into the marsh. The state started to restock the alewives in 2009-2013, but we have only seen a few alewives in the past four years. We are not sure why the alewives have not come back since the restocking. We are worried about the saltwater that is coming into the marsh because we are thinking that it may affect the alewives eggs after spawning. Alewives normally lay their eggs in freshwater.

These observations make us wonder how much saltwater is coming into the marsh with the tides. Is that why the alewives have not come back? Because we have warming climate it is making the tides high enough for saltwater to come into the marsh.

We are going to try and hatch alewife eggs in different amounts of salt to see how much of an effect the salt will have on the eggs. When we figure out how the salt is affecting the alewives we would like to share our information with the town of St. George and maybe the town would consider restocking again.



The Marsh in Tenants Harbor