Quantification of blue carbon in seagrass ecosystems from high resolution commercial imagery

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PlanetScope



- Multispectral, high spatial resolution
 - 3 m multispectral (RGB & NIR bands)
 - 1 m multispectral (skysat)
 - New 8 band sensors already launched
- Almost daily coverage (Over 100 satellites)



Chesapeake Bay sites of interest.

- 5 sites
- Ranging from saline to fresh
- Supervised classification
 - Expert advise for training patches



South Bay & Spider Crab

- Planet passes every day, often multiple passes from different sensors.
- Images good for seagrass identification.
 - Low tide
 - Low turbidity
 - Low cloud cover.



South Bay & Spider Crab

2019

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2021

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- Generate training patches for each target
 - Beach
 - Land
 - Marsh
 - Optically deep
 - Seagrass
 - Shallow sand



- Generate training patches for each target
 - Beach
 - Land
 - Marsh
 - Optically deep
 - Seagrass
 - Shallow sand
- Training patches for each image, or select areas that are consistent over time.
- Batch process using same patches.
- Each individual image is trained and classified.







Depth mask removes green optically deep water.





Shrink

Removes single seagrass pixels with no neighbouring pixels



Shrink

Removes single seagrass pixels with no neighbouring pixels





2021 – frequency presence

- Some areas have very low frequency. These are images with increased turbidity close to land.
 - Remove with a mask?
 - Generate seagrass habitat areas and use to mask
 - Not use those images but they produce good classification in the seagrass meadows.
- Set a threshold for frequency presence.















From distribution to density







- <u>Atmospherically corrected</u> R_{rs} from imagery
- $Q_{\rm b} = E_{\rm u}(z_{\rm b})/L_{\rm u}(z_{\rm b}) = \pi$
- *K*_{Lu} & *K*_d from *Hydrolight* using measured IOPs
- Water depth, DEM + tide

$$R_{b} = \frac{R_{rs}Q_{b}}{t} \frac{\exp\left[-K_{Lu}z_{b}\right]}{\exp\left(K_{d}z_{b}\right)}$$

- $z_{\rm b}$ bottom depth from acoustic survey
- t air/sea transmittance of $L_u(0.54)$

Hill, V. J., Zimmerman, R. C., Bissett, P., Dierssen, H. M., & Kohler, D. (2014). Evaluating Light Availability, Seagrass Biomass, and Productivity Using Hyperspectral Airborne Remote Sensing in Saint Joseph's Bay, Florida. *Estuaries and Coasts, 37*. doi:DOI: 10.1007/s12237-013-9764-3.

Dierssen, H., R. Zimmerman, R. Leathers, T. Downes, and C. Davis. 2003. Remote sensing of seagrass and bathymetry in the Bahamas Banks using high resolution airborne imagery. Limnol. Oceangr. **48**: **444-455**.





From distribution to density





From distribution to carbon









Quantification of blue carbon in seagrass ecosystems from high resolution commercial imagery

- Partly automated processing.
- Reprocess when needed
- Refine techniques for each region.
- Frequency ~ density?
- Use high frequency of images to overcome turbidity and sparse areas.
- Sparse areas are still identified.
- Atmospheric correction needs to be addressed.



Quantification of blue carbon in seagrass ecosystems from high resolution commercial imagery

- Follow along with our group in learning how to process the Planet/WorldView imagery.
- Spring 2022 semester.
- Monday's ~4.30 5.30 pm

