August 18, 2008
Monitoring Status – 2008 SAV at CBEC Report from Peter Bergstrom

Good news--the wild celery we planted on 2008 Restoration Day is growing to the surface in several parts of the fenced area in Marshy Creek at CBEC, and there's quite a bit growing in between those visible shoots, visible only with a view scope. The plants near the end of the rectangle are doing well.

More information:
http://thumper-web.vims.edu/bio/sav/wordpress/index.php/archives/163

I estimated about 50% of the fenced area was covered with wild celery, about the same as right after we planted, but I think many of the plants are taller than they were when we planted. Some redhead grass was growing inside the fenced area (about 20% of the area) but there did not seem to be enough to crowd out the wild celery. There was one sea nettle inside the fence and a few outside.

The narrow rectangle that I laid out makes it easy to check the plants without having to open the fence and walk inside. The Secchi depth was poor (0.3 m) but the redhead grass in the same cove was also doing well, with a bit of widgeongrass. I was quite surprised that I could see any wild celery with the Secchi depth that low. I did not have my refractometer but the continuous monitor in Eastern/Prospect Bay just south of CBEC is running about 10.5 ppt near the bottom (http://mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/newmontech/contmon/current_results_quick_fullyear_graph.cfm?param=salinity&station=cbec) which should be near the upper salinity range for wild celery.

We planted wild celery grown from seeds from the same batch in the upper Magothy River later in June, where the salinity was a bit lower (about 9 ppt based on nearby data from last Sat.) and the Secchi depth better (0.7 m), but the plants are not doing well there when I checked them this afternoon. I could only find 4 small clumps of very short plants covering only about 5% of the fenced area. I don't think those plants were acclimated with instant ocean before we planted them; maybe that made a difference in the plants at CBEC.

Yours
Peter