Each of the ten plots (24 m x 42 m) was set up with the short axis along the water’s edge. At the start of the study, plot elevation (based on publicly available LIDAR and NADV 1983) ranged from 0.2 m above Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) along a small berm at the water’s edge, to 0.1 m above MLLW in the remainder of the plots, with a subtly heterogeneous elevation topography in the middle and back zones of the plot. The higher elevation along the shoreline was largely attributable to the accumulation of sediment and wrack trapped by plant stems, trunks, or aerial roots (pneumatophores). Within each plot, mangrove cover (initially close to 100 %) was set at a specified level by removing mangroves within 3 m x 3 m patches in a stratified random checkerboard pattern. Marsh vegetation naturally colonized the cleared areas. Two permanent transects consisting of contiguous 1 m x 1 m quadrats extended from the back (baseline, 42 m from the shoreline) to the front of each plot. In each quadrat, percent cover ad maximum height was recorded for each species present. Additional measurements in each plot included water depth in the center, number of fiddler crab (Uca spp.) burrows, number of Lirroraria irrorata (periwinkles), and percent cover and maximum raft thickness of organic wrack (typically seagrass and seaweed accumulations). Beginning in 2017, after Hurricane Harvey, we also measured the percent cover of non-organic debris (e.g., plastic, lumber). In addition, we developed an index to score the extent of storm damage on mangroves (e.g., defoliation, broken branches). Each quadrat was given a score from 1 to 5, where 1 indicated no damage, 2 indicated 1-10% of the mangrove was damaged, 3 indicated 11-50% damaged, 4 indicated 51-75% damaged, and 5 indicated mangroves that were still alive but with evidence of damage on 75% or more of the plant.