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Title of Proposal: Manipulated by Hand and Moon: Black Geographies and the Tidal Rice Fields of the Brunswick River

Abstract: Existing scholarship regarding rice cultivation in the Lowcountry tends to favor the histories of South Carolina and Georgia. Through collaborative, innovative and community-centric efforts, this preliminary thesis investigation of the Brunswick River Rice Region attempts to delineate boundaries of the African American Maritime Cultural Landscape both cognitively and topographically to establish a foundation of tidal rice field data specific to North Carolina. By approaching this research through the lens of Black Geographies and working with members of the Gullah Geechee community and Eagles Island Coalition, resulting data has the potential to fill gaps that have been missing from the archaeological record, identify management needs, contribute to outreach projects, and pursues an understanding of how enslaved Africans transformed the waterways of rice fields into liminal spaces of freedom and resistance while being forced to manipulate the landscape to harvest one of the most profitable crops in the Lowcountry.