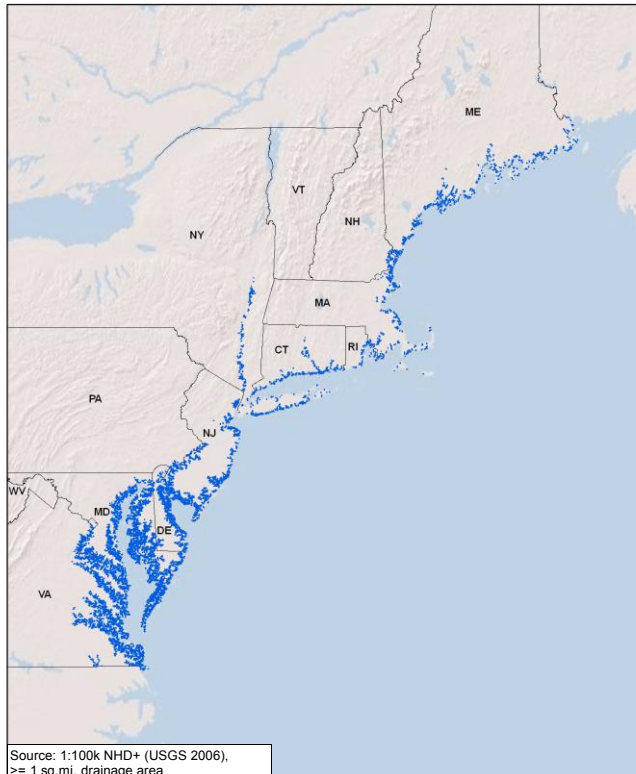


Tidal Headwaters and Creeks

Macrogroup: Tidal Headwaters and Creeks

This map is based on a model and has had little field-checking. Contact your State Natural Heritage Ecologist or State Fish Game Agency for more information about this habitat.



Source: 1:100k NHD+ (USGS 2006), >= 1 sq.mi. drainage area



Quashnet River

Description:

Slow-moving, shallow, tidally influenced creeks and headwater streams. These tidal creeks and streams connect directly to the ocean or to large tidal rivers estuaries and have watersheds under 39 square miles. The water flow and level in these streams fluctuates with the tides creating subtidal habitat which is permanently flooded and an intertidal habitat exposed at low tide. Salinity typically ranges between 30 and 0.5 ppt and grades into a freshwater system in the upper portions of many of these reaches. Most tidal streams have moderately firm, sandy channel bottoms and vertical banks that are regularly eroded and slump into the creek bottom. Many have a very sinuous pattern as they wind through large salt marshes along the coast. Others have smaller associated brackish or salt marshes along their length and/or intertidal sand and mud flats in their lower portions. These streams and their associated estuaries support a rich diversity of plant and animals and serve as the primary nursery area for many marine fishes. The ecological importance of small tidal streams has historically been undervalued, but recent research is showing their collective influence on estuarine ecosystem function may equal or exceed that of larger tidal rivers.

Similar Habitat Types:

Tidal headwaters and creeks may drain directly to the coast or into larger tidal rivers and their estuaries. High gradient examples of tidal creeks and streams are rare but do occur occasionally along the northern rocky coast of the region.

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Wye River, Md Environmental Trust Easement | MD Cedar Run, Stafford Forge | NJ Bass River, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge | NJ Pettaquanscutt River, John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge | RI Powhatan Creek, Colonial National Historical Park | VA

State Distribution: CT, DE, DC, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA

Total Habitat (mi): 7,835

% Conserved: 13.2 Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer

State	State Habitat %	Miles of Habitat	Acres GAP 1 - 2	Acres GAP 3	Total Acres Unsecured
VA	31	2402	43	86	1690
MD	29	2307	50	169	1548
NJ	12	906	156	32	511
ME	8	654	29	24	445
DE	6	501	27	52	309
NY	4	336	10	17	238
MA	4	312	14	39	185
CT	3	218	9	12	151
NH	1	95	3	7	61
RI	1	71	3	5	50
PA	0	24	2	1	16
DC	0	7	0	1	6

Associated Fish:

Most Abundant: alewife, blueback herring, atlantic silverside, mummichog, striped killifish, sheepshead minnow, fourspine stickleback, threespine stickleback, american eel, winter flounder, black sea bass, bluefish, striped bass, naked goby, northern pipefish.
Less Abundant: eastern mudminnow, white sucker, tessellated darter, pumpkinseed, redbfin pickerel, eastern mosquitofish, swallowtail shiner, redbreast sunfish, largemouth bass, brook trout, satinfish shiner, banded killifish, sea lamprey, golden shiner, banded sunfish.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):

Fishes: bridle shiner, glassy darter, spotfin killifish, american brook lamprey, ironcolor shiner
Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: tidewater mucket, eastern pondmussel, new england siltsnail
 See Appendix 2 for scientific names

Crosswalk to State Names:

New York: Brackish interdunal swales, Brackish intertidal mudflats, Brackish intertidal shore, Brackish meadow, Brackish subtidal aquatic bed, Brackish tidal marsh, Coastal salt pond, Freshwater intertidal mudflats, Freshwater intertidal shore, Freshwater tidal creek, Freshwater tidal marsh, Freshwater tidal swamp, High salt marsh, Low salt marsh, Salt panne, Salt shrub, Saltwater tidal creek.
Maryland: Tidal Streams, Coastal Plain Streams, Blackwater Streams.



Alewife, © USDA Forest Service

