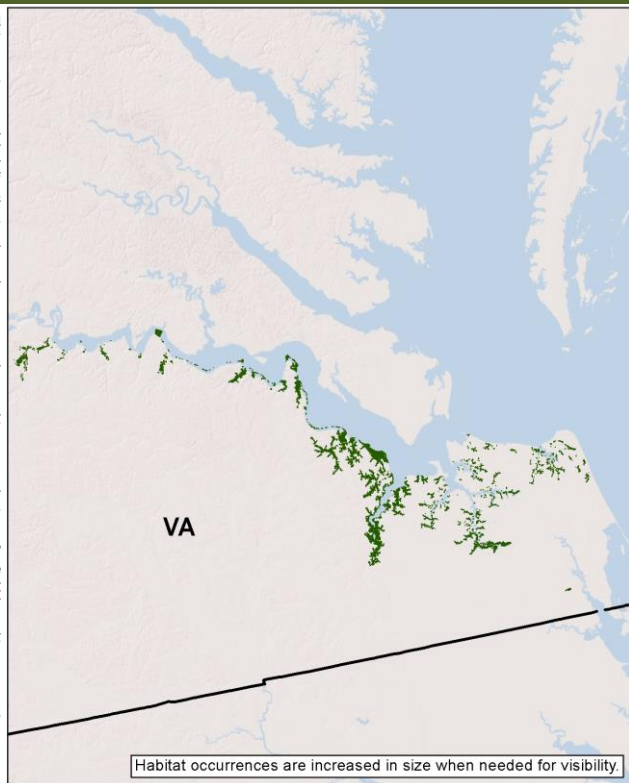


# North Atlantic Coastal Plain Brackish/Fresh & Oligohaline Tidal Marsh



## Macrogroup: Tidal Marsh

This map is a modeled distribution based on current data and is not a substitute for field based inventory. Contact your State Natural Heritage Ecologist for more information about this habitat.



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### Description:

A graminoid-dominated wetland of fresh to slightly brackish zones along tidal rivers in very southeast Virginia and the southern shores of the James River. Water salinity varies from nearly fresh (oligohaline) in the drowned creeks and inland estuaries to saltier brackish water near the coast and on or near barrier island inlets. These marshes typically occur as complexes dominated by large graminoids such as salt hay, bulrushes, cattails, and rushes, sometimes with species-rich associations of shorter graminoids, forbs, and floating or submerged aquatics. Brackish marshes tend to be low diversity communities of intertidal flats cut off from direct oceanic influence by protective barrier islands.

### State Distribution: VA

Total Habitat Acreage: 17,021

Percent Conserved: 14.6%

| State | State Habitat % | State Acreage | GAP 1&2 (acres) | GAP 3 (acres) | Unsecured (acres) |
|-------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| VA    | 100%            | 17,021        | 240             | 2,252         | 14,529            |

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

These marshes are associated with extensive brackish water and both lunar and wind tidal flooding. The tidal freshwater marshes are driven by irregular wind tides, with minimal lunar tidal influence. Irregular flooding, fire, and sea-level rise are important drivers of ecological change.

### Similar Habitat Types:

This system is mapped in extreme southeastern Virginia only, while the North Atlantic Coastal Plain Tidal Salt Marsh system is mapped from Chesapeake Bay north to southern Maine. In addition, it represents only brackish and fresh marshes; all salinity levels, salt, brackish, and oligohaline/fresh, are lumped together and mapped in the northern salt marsh system.

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

**Places to Visit this Habitat:**

Chippokes Plantation State Park | VA  
 First Landing State Park | VA  
 Nansemond National Wildlife Refuge | VA  
 Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area | VA

**Associated Species:** *Appendix lists scientific names*

**BIRDS:** american goldfinch, common yellowthroat, least bittern, marsh wren, red-winged blackbird, song sparrow, swamp sparrow, virginia rail, willow flycatcher, yellow warbler

**MAMMALS:** big brown bat, eastern pipistrelle, little brown myotis, northern long-eared bat, red bat, silver-haired bat

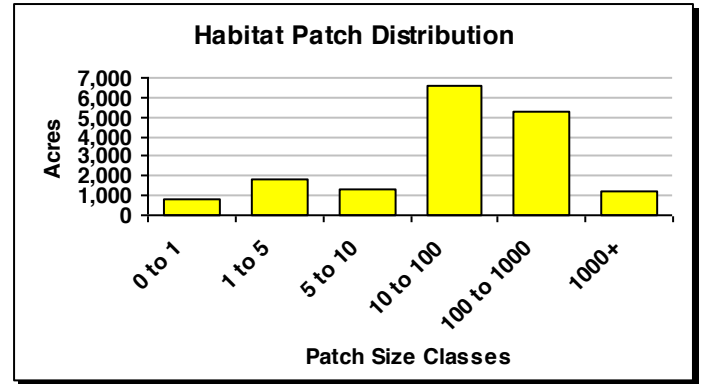
**PLANTS:** Sandpaper Vervain (*Verbena scabra*)

**Species of Concern (G1-G4):** *Appendix lists scientific names*

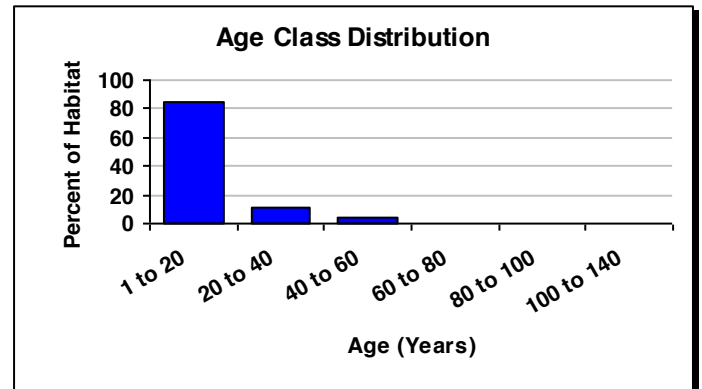
**INSECTS:** rare skipper



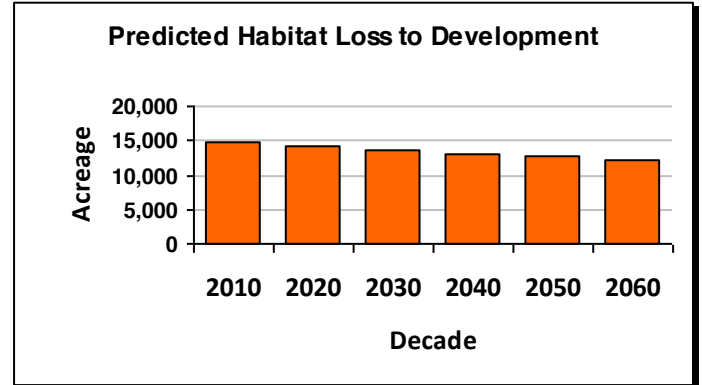
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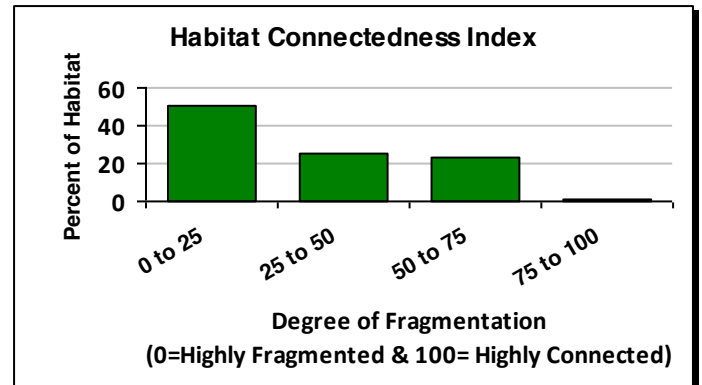
The average patch size for this habitat is 5 acres and the largest single patch is 1,237 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



This chart shows the average age of trees associated with this habitat based on forest inventory data. For non-forested systems or small habitats the average age is influenced by the surroundings.



This chart shows the predicted loss of habitat over the next five decades (2,700 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 54 acres per year.



This metric measures how connected or fragmented the land directly surrounding (18 square miles) the habitat is, this the chart shows the proportion of the habitat in each connectedness class.