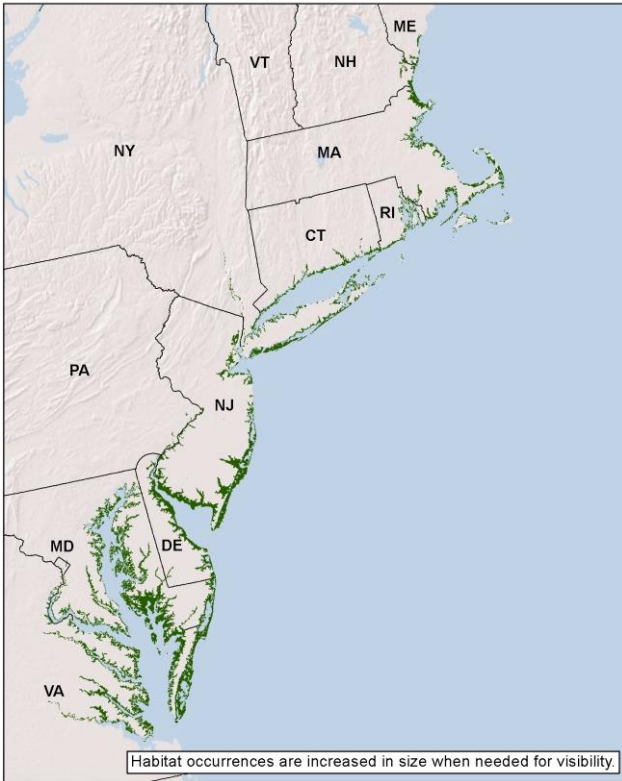




## Macrogroup: Tidal Marsh

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 complex of tidally influenced marshes from the coastal shore on up the tidal rivers of the Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain. This habitat includes salt marsh, brackish marsh, and freshwater tidal marsh. A salt marsh profile features a low regularly flooded marsh dominated by salt marsh cordgrass; a higher irregularly flooded marsh dominated by saltmeadow cordgrass and saltgrass; low hypersaline pannes characterized by saltwort; and a salt scrub ecotone characterized by marsh elder, groundsel-tree, and switchgrass. Brackish areas support salt marsh cordgrass, giant cordgrass, narrowleaf cattail, and bulrush. Freshwater tidal areas include wild rice marshes, and forbs such as water hemp, and rosemallow.

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

**Total Habitat Acreage:** 920,107

**Percent Conserved:** 45.2%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
MD	27%	245,840	39,574	66,003	140,264
NJ	25%	228,298	126,237	3,886	98,175
VA	22%	204,148	32,632	55,758	115,758
DE	9%	85,398	16,761	25,547	43,090
MA	7%	67,163	11,057	16,240	39,867
NY	5%	49,268	6,189	3,152	39,927
CT	2%	18,538	2,751	4,088	11,699
RI	1%	8,583	1,213	1,116	6,254
NH	1%	7,214	601	1,155	5,458
ME	0%	3,901	1,600	82	2,219
PA	0%	1,636	516	58	1,062
DC	0%	120	0	3	117

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

The salt/brackish/oligohaline-freshwater gradient tracks the degree to which intertidal flats are removed from the open ocean. Brackish marshes can occur along upper edges of salt marshes and along tidal rivers. Freshwater tidal marshes occur on the upper reaches of large rivers influenced by tidal flooding beyond the reach of the salt wedge. Marshes of lower salinity levels are best developed in Chesapeake and Delaware Bays.

### Similar Habitat Types:

These marshes are generally more extensive than those along the coast north of the coastal plain (Acadian Coastal Salt Marsh). They experience lunar tides, as opposed to the irregular wind-driven tides of the Atlantic Coastal Plain Embayed Region Freshwater and Brackish Marshes of southeast Virginia, and tend to be more productive than marshes there.

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Tidal Wetland - Tidal Wetlands (CT), Emergent Tidal Wetlands (DC), Freshwater Tidal Forested and Scrub-Shrub Wetlands (DE), Freshwater Tidal Marshes (DE), Estuaries (MA), Tidal Marshes (MD), Estuarine Emergent Saltmarsh (ME), Salt Marshes (NH), Tidal salt marsh (NJ), Salt Marsh (NY), Wetlands - Emergent Estuarine (PA), Intertidal - Estuarine Intertidal Emergent Brackish Marsh (RI), Wetland Habitat - Emergent (VA)

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Salt/Brackish Intertidal Marsh (CT), North Atlantic High/Low Salt Marsh (DE), Estuarine Intertidal: Salt Marsh (MA), Tidal Mesohaline Marsh (MD), Spartina Saltmarsh (ME), Salt Marshes (NH), Salt Marsh Complex (NJ), High/Low Salt Marsh (NY), Freshwater Tidal Mixed High Marsh (PA), Salt Marsh (RI), High/Low Salt Marsh (VA), Intertidal Flat (NH)

## Places to Visit this Habitat:

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge | DE  
 Assateague Island National Seashore | MD  
 Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge | NJ  
 Fire Island National Seashore | NY  
 Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge | VA

## Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

**BIRDS:** american oystercatcher, arctic tern, black skimmer, black-crowned night-heron, clapper rail, common tern, forster's tern, glossy ibis, great egret, gull-billed tern, little blue heron, marsh wren, northern harrier, osprey, royal tern, tricolored heron, willet, yellow-crowned night-heron

**MAMMALS:** north american least shrew

**INSECTS:** big bluet, Needham's skimmer, salt marsh skipper

**PLANTS:** american sea-blite (*Suaeda calceoliformis*), dwarf glasswort (*Salicornia bigelovii*), large marsh pink (*Sabatia dodecandra*), salt reedgrass (*Spartina cynosuroides*), saltmarsh bulrush (*Schoenoplectus maritimus*), saltmarsh false foxglove (*Agalinis maritima*), sea pink (*Sabatia stellaris*), seacoast angelica (*Angelica lucida*), seaside heliotrope (*Heliotropium curassavicum*)

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

**BIRDS:** black rail, king rail, least tern, red knot, roseate tern, saltmarsh sparrow, seaside sparrow

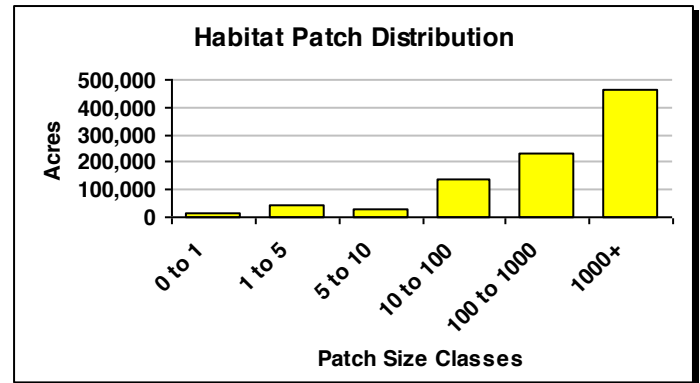
**HERPTILES:** diamondback terrapin, loggerhead, rainbow snake

**INSECTS:** checkered white, maritime sunflower borer moth, seaside goldenrod borer moth, spartina borer moth

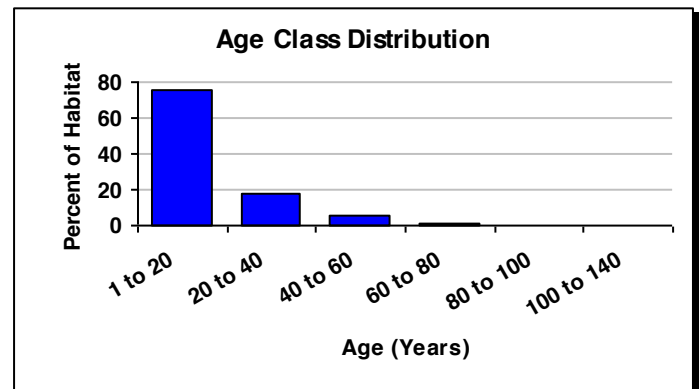
**PLANTS:** large salt marsh aster (*Aster tenuifolius*), Parker's pipewort (*Eriocaulon parkeri*), roland's sea-blite (*Suaeda rolandii*), salt marsh goosegrass (*Puccinellia fasciculata*), saltmarsh fleabane (*Pluchea odorata*), salt-marsh sedge (*Carex recta*), saltmarsh spikerush (*Eleocharis halophila*), seabeach dock (*Rumex pallidus*), seabeach knotweed (*Polygonum glaucum*), sea-chickweed (*Honckenya peploides*), seaside alder (*Alnus maritima*)



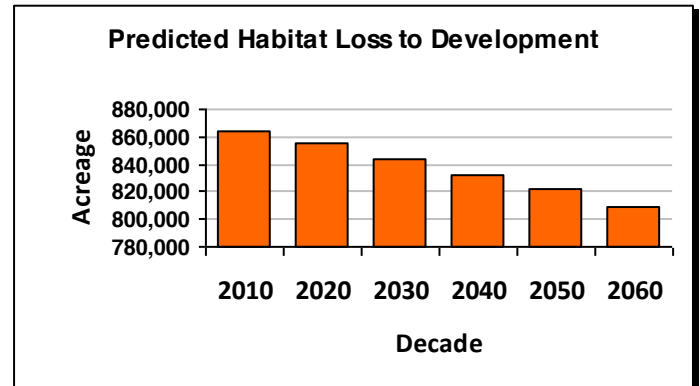
© Martin Rapp (New Jersey Natural Lands Trust)



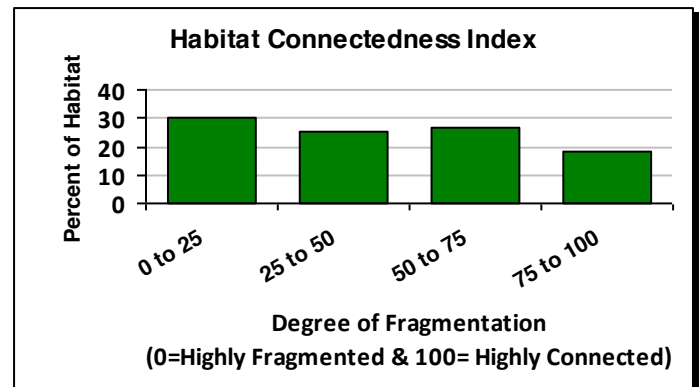
The average patch size for this habitat is 11 acres and the largest single patch is 19,464 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (54,284 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 1,086 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.