

Tidal Small and Medium River

Macrogroup: Tidal Small and Medium River

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.



Nanticoke River, © Doug Samson

Description:

Slow moving, small to medium, tidally influenced rivers. These small to medium sized rivers connect directly to the ocean or to large estuaries and their water flow and level fluctuates with the tides. They drain watersheds up to 1,000 sq.mi.in size and have an average bankfull width of 89 feet. In the river there is a vertical salinity gradient, with a surface layer of fresh water (salinity less than 0.5 ppt) floating over a deeper layer of brackish water (salinity between 0.5 and 18.0ppt). Salinities at any one place in the river may fluctuate as the tides flow in and out because the "salt wedge" of brackish water alternately rises and falls with the tides. Vegetational and faunal communities found in and along the river are determined by both depth and salinity. Commonly associated communities include brackish and salt marshes, swamps, and mudflats. These rivers and their associated estuaries support a rich diversity of plant and animals and serve as the primary nursery area for many marine, estuarine, and anadromous fishes.

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

Total Habitat (mi): 1,885

% Conserved: 18.2 Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer

State	State Habitat %	Miles of Habitat	Acres GAP 1 - 2	Acres GAP 3	Total Acres Unsecured
MD	32	589	40	106	539
VA	19	350	20	28	389
NJ	17	323	53	16	192
ME	8	150	4	11	122
DE	6	119	6	14	62
MA	6	110	3	15	74
NY	4	65	5	1	55
CT	3	53	1	6	26
RI	2	37	1	1	27
PA	1	23	3	1	10
NH	1	22	1	1	11
DC	0	7	0	0	7

Similar Habitat Types:

Tidal rivers typically have a number of connected smaller tidal creeks and may drain directly to the coast or into larger tidal rivers and their estuaries.

Places to Visit this Habitat:

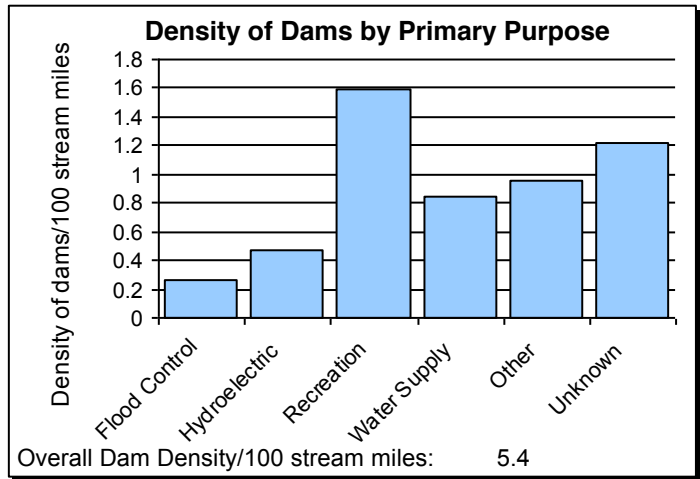
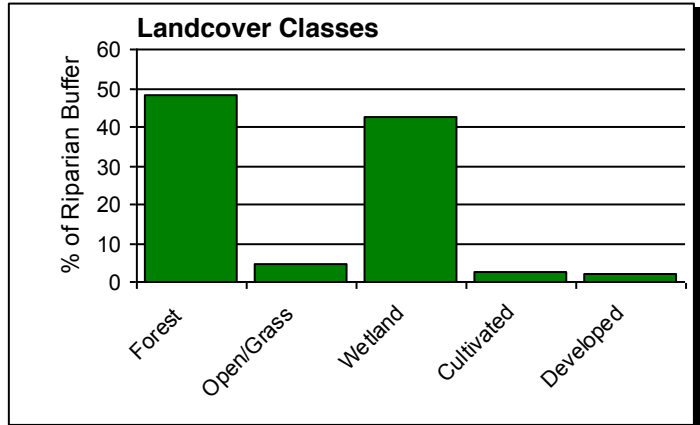
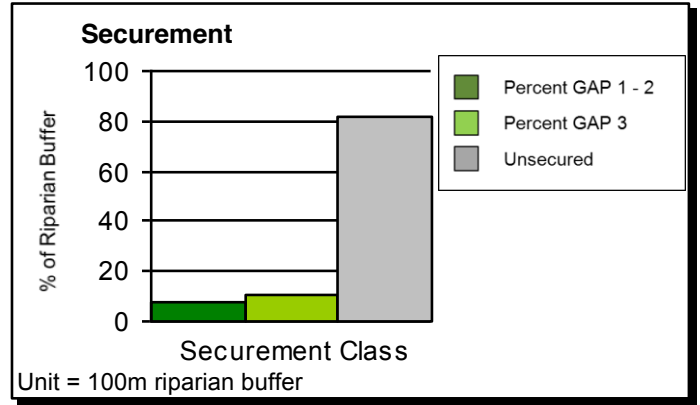
Quinnipiac River, Quinnipiac River State Park, CT Nanticoke River, Nanticoke River Watershed Conservancy | DE Transquaking River, Fishing Bay Wildlife Management Area | MD Northwest River, Northwest River | VA Mattaponi River, Sandy Point State Forest | VA

Associated Fish:

Most Abundant: alewife, blueback herring, american shad, hickory shad, gizzard shad, striped bass, atlantic tomcod, american eel, rainbow smelt, sea lamprey, white perch, hogchoker, striped bass, banded killifish, spottail shiner, tessellated darter, pumpkinseed, bay anchovy. Less Abundant: pumpkinseed, white sucker, yellow perch, largemouth bass, redbreast sunfish, spottail shiner, chain pickerel, golden shiner, eastern silver minnow, common shiner, satinfish shiner, shorthead redhorse, redfin pickerel.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):

Fishes: shortnose sturgeon, atlantic sturgeon, glassy darter, spotfin killifish, 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, Tidal river. Maryland: Tidal Streams, Coastal Plain Streams, Blackwater Streams.



American shad, © Raver Duane, USFWS

