Description:
A tidally flooded hardwood forest and shrubland in lower river floodplains and estuaries of the North Atlantic Coastal Plain. Deciduous hardwood species predominate, especially ash (green or pumpkin), black gum, or water tupelo, along with red maple, American elm, and black willow. Alder and silky dogwood are common shrubs. Lianas and vines are common: poison ivy, greenbrier, and Virginia creeper. Species richness in the herbaceous layer is exceptionally high due to microtopographic features. Regularly flooded hollows primarily support flood-tolerant swamp species such as orange jewelweed, arrow arum, and various smartweeds. Water hemlock, and smallspike false nettle are typical of elevated hummocks.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:
Occurs as small patches in the uppermost portions of tidal rivers that have sufficiently fresh water and short enough flooding to support trees. Stands form distinct pockets and fringes on poorly-drained, slightly acidic tidal muck with high silt and clay content. Most common in the Chesapeake Bay region, but reaching as far up as the lower Hudson River.

Similar Habitat Types:
In Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, found usually at the upper limit of brackish or fresh and oligohaline tidal marshes. Southern Atlantic Coastal Plain Tidal Wooded Swamp is similar, with a different (but overlapping) suite of species due to biogeographic differences.

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:
Wind-Tidal Cypress-Gum Swamp (DE), Tidal Hardwood Swamp (MD), Freshwater Tidal Swamp (NJ), Freshwater Tidal Swamp (NY), Northern Coastal Plain Tidal Bald Cypress Forest (VA)
Places to Visit this Habitat:
Cape Henlopen State Park | DE
Blackwater Wildlife Refuge | MD
Cape May National Wildlife Refuge | NJ
Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge | NJ
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge | VA

Associated Species: Appendix lists scientific names

BIRDS: barred owl, chuck-will's widow, prothonotary warbler, red-shouldered hawk, white-eyed vireo, willow flycatcher, wood duck

HERPTILES: eastern narrow-mouthed toad

INSECTS: bar-winged skimmer, blue-faced meadowhawk, brown spiketail, fine-lined emerald, golden-winged skimmer, sparkling jewelwing

PLANTS: bayonet rush (Juncus militaris), maidencane (Panicum hemitomon), seaside alder (Alnus maritima), southern bladderwort (Utricularia juncea), catchfly-grass (Leersia lenticularis), clustered beakrush (Rhynchospora glomerata), cuckoo-flower (Cardamine pratensis), erect coineaf (Centella erecta), gibbous panic-grass (Sacciolepis striata), red bay (Persea palustris), showy tick-trefoil (Desmodium canadense), star duckweed (Lemna trisulca)

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

INSECTS: Bethany beach firefly, blackwater bluet, Lemmer's noctuid moth, palamedes swallowtail

PLANTS: American frog's-bit (Limnobium spongia), american waterwort (Elatine americana), awned mountainmint (Pycnanthemum setosum), giant peatmoss (Sphagnum torreyanum), marsh rattlesnake master (Eryngium aquaticum), Nuttall's lobelia (Lobelia nuttallii), pale false foxglove (Agalinis skinneriana), reniform sedge (Carex reniformis), shoreline sedge (Carex hyalinolepis), sweet pinesap (Monotropsis odorata), tropical water-hyssop (Bacopa innominata), watermeal (Wolffia papulifera)

Predicted Habitat Loss to Development
This chart shows the predicted loss of habitat over the next five decades (13,082 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 262 acres per year.

Habitat Connectedness Index
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.

North Atlantic Coastal Plain Tidal Swamp

http://nature.ly/HabitatGuide