

Macrogroup: Tidal Large 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.



Connecticut River, © Jerry Monkman

Description:

Slow moving, large, deep, tidally influenced rivers. These very large rivers connect directly to the ocean or to large estuaries and their water flow and level fluctuates with the tides. They have large upstream watersheds >1000 sq.mi and average bankfull widths of over 300 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. Most of these rivers have extensive salt marshes an/or intertidal sand and mud flats at their mouths. 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.

Similar Habitat Types:

Large tidal rivers typically have a number of connected smaller tidal rivers and creeks.

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

Total Habitat (mi): 1,026

% Conserved: 15.9 Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer

State	State Habitat %	Miles of Habitat	Acres GAP 1 - 2	Acres GAP 3	Total Acres Unsecured
VA	41	412	9	42	358
NY	15	146	5	16	87
ME	12	116	1	2	61
CT	10	99	6	8	59
NJ	8	77	10	11	45
MD	5	48	2	5	31
PA	5	46	1	3	29
MA	3	26	1	1	18
DE	2	25	9	2	9
DC	1	6	0	0	5

Places to Visit this Habitat:

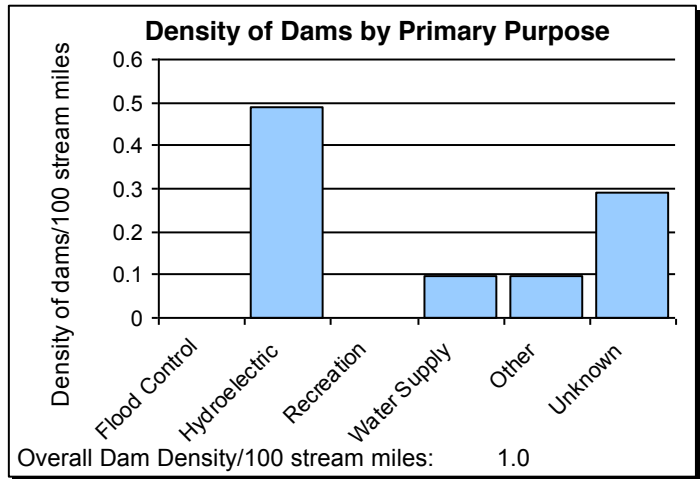
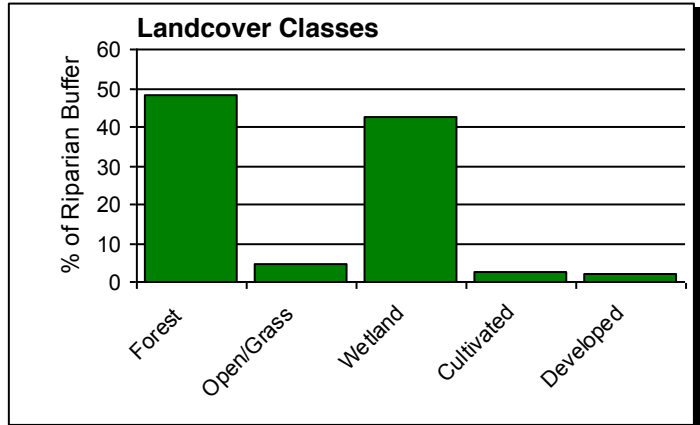
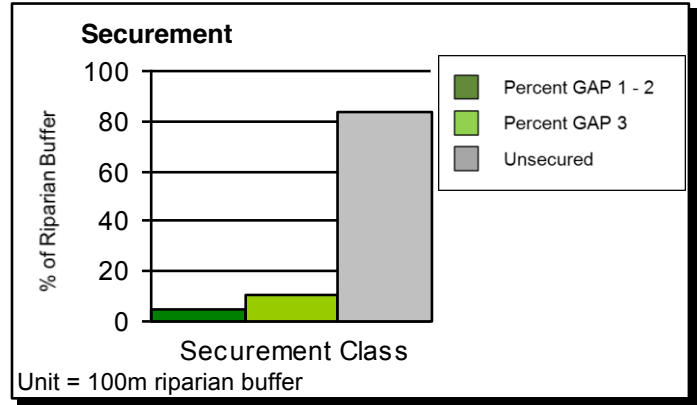
Connecticut River, Windsor Meadows State Park | CT Hudson River, Peebles Island | NY Schuylkill River, Fairmont Park | PA James River, James River National Wildlife Refuge | VA Delaware River, Supawna Meadows NWR | NJ

Associated Fish:

Most Abundant: atlantic sturgeon, shortnose sturgeon, atlantic salmon, alewife, blueback herring, american shad, hickory shad, gizzard shad, striped bass, atlantic tomcod, american eel, sea lamprey, hogchoker, banded killifish, spottail shiner, tessellated darter, pumpkinseed, bay anchovy, white perch. Less Abundant: spottail shiner, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, redbreast sunfish, largemouth bass, eastern silvery minnow, white sucker, fallfish, inland silverside.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):

Fishes: shortnose sturgeon, atlantic sturgeon
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 marsh, Freshwater tidal swamp, High salt marsh, Low salt marsh, Salt panne, Salt shrub, Tidal river.



Atlantic sturgeon © VA Park Staff

