

GLOSSARY

Adaptation:	A genetically-based characteristic that allows an organism to survive and reproduce successfully in a particular environment.
Abiotic Factors:	Nonliving (physical) factors such as pH, temperature, and salinity.
Barrier Island:	An elongated island parallel to the mainland.
Benthos:	Sea bottom habitat and the organisms that live on or in association with it.
Bivalve:	Having two valves, plates, or shells.
Bulkhead:	A retaining structure of timber, steel, or reinforced concrete.
Community:	A group of living organisms in a given area that interact with each other; the living component of an ecosystem.
Consumer:	An organism that is unable to manufacture its own food.
Crustacean:	A class of arthropods with two pairs of antennae, segmented body, and jointed limbs. Usually has a hard shell and gills.
CZM:	Coastal Zone Management.
Desiccation:	The process of drying out.
Detritivore:	An animal that feeds on detritus.
Detritus:	Small pieces of dead organic matter, i.e. decomposing mangrove leaves.
Dichotomous Key:	An identification tool based on a series of selections that best describe the characteristics of an organism.
DEP:	Department of Environmental Protection.
DO:	Dissolved oxygen.
Dune:	Mound, hill, or ridge of windblown sand.
Endangered Species:	Animal or plant in danger of becoming extinct.
Epiphytic:	Plants living on the surface of other plants without deriving nutrients from the host.
Epifauna:	Animals living on the surface of the substrate.
Estuary:	A semi-enclosed body of water where fresh water and salt water meet.
Filter Feeder:	Animals that eat small organisms or particles of organic matter, which they strain out of the surrounding water.

Food Chain:	The passing of food that is converted into energy from producers to different levels of consumers.
Food Web:	A complex, interlocking system of food chains
Foraging	A food searching and feeding behavior.
Fouling Organisms:	Organisms that live on or attach to the surface of artificial or introduced object.
Groin:	An artificial structure built perpendicular to the shore to impede longshore currents.
Habitat:	The physical area where an organism lives; its natural home.
Holoplankton:	Organisms that are planktonic throughout their entire life cycle.
YSI:	Equipment that is used to collect data on the chemical and physical parameters of water.
Histogram:	Frequency distribution graphs used for historical comparison.
Hypersaline:	Extremely salty water or conditions.
Infauna:	Animals who live buried in soft sediment.
Intertidal:	Between the tidemarks; covered by water at high tide and exposed to the air at low tide.
Invertebrate:	An animal that lacks a backbone.
Jetty:	An artificial structure built to extend an inlet.
Lenticel:	Pores found on the prop roots, pneumatophores, and trunks of mangrove trees that allow for the exchange of gases while keeping water out.
Littoral Drift:	Movement of sedimentary material (sand, shells, and pebbles) parallel to the shore caused by wave and current action.
Mangrove:	A general term applied to several species of tropical and subtropical salt-tolerant trees.
Maximum Sustainable Yield:	The largest annual catch that fishers can take continuously from a stock without overfishing.
Megalop:	Larval stage of certain crustaceans, especially crabs. Characterized by large, stalked eyes.
Meroplankton:	Temporary members of the plankton family that spend part of their lives as nekton or benthos.
Mean:	The average.
Median:	The value that falls between the lowest and highest 50% of individual measurements.
Mode:	The most frequently occurring measurement.

Mollusks:	Soft-bodied animals with a muscular head-foot and a mantle that usually secretes a shell.
Neap Tides:	Lowest tidal range, occurring halfway between the full and new moon tides.
Nekton:	Strong swimming animals that can control their speed and direction.
NOAA:	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
Nursery:	A semi-protected area where young organisms can grow and develop.
Otter Trawl:	A net held open by two doors that is pulled by a boat. Used for sampling marine organisms.
Perinatal:	Animals that were born recently.
pH:	This value is $-\log(H)$. Expresses the hydrogen ion concentration in a solution. A measure of how acidic or basic a solution is, on a scale of 0-14 (0 = very acidic, 14 = very basic, 7 = neutral).
Plankton:	Aquatic organisms that float in the top layer of the water.
Phytoplankton:	Plant plankton.
Pneumatophore:	A root rising above the level of the water or soil that acts as a respiratory organ.
Primary Productivity:	The synthesis of organic material by plants.
Propagule:	A bud, offshoot, or sprouted seed that is able to develop and grow into a new plant.
Prop Root:	A root that branches out from the trunk providing support. Also acts as a respiratory organ.
R:	The actual rate of increase of a population.
Refractometer:	Measures salinity by measuring the refraction of light.
Reptiles:	Vertebrates with dry scaly skin and eggs laid on land.
Rhizome:	A horizontal underground stem that bears buds, leaves, and roots.
Rookery:	A breeding ground used by gregarious birds or mammals.
Roost:	A place where birds gather to rest at night, often in large numbers.
Salinity:	A measurement indicating the amount of dissolved salt in a solution.
Scatter-graph:	A graph where the values from one variable are plotted on the x-axis and the other values are plotted on the y-axis.
Scavengers:	Animals that eat dead organisms or organic matter.
Secchi Disk:	A white or black-and-white disk that is lowered into the water to measure visibility.
Seaweed:	Larger algae growing in marine habitats.

Secondary Growth:	Growth in girth in plants.
Selective permeability:	Property of allowing some substances to pass through more easily than others.
Sessile:	“Sitting”; not moving from place to place.
Sexual Dimorphism:	Dimorphism = two forms; in sexual dimorphism, the two sexes differ in appearance or behavior.
Species:	A group of similar organisms whose members can breed with one another to produce fertile offspring.
Spring Tides:	The highest tidal range occurring at full and new moons.
Succession:	Process in which the environment becomes less favorable for existing inhabitants and more favorable for members of other species, which eventually come to dominate the community, and which later may be displaced by other species.
Swash Zone:	The narrow zone on the foreshore where water rushes up and back on the beach.
Symbiosis:	Intimate associations between members of different species.
TED:	Turtle Excluder Device or Trawl Efficiency Device.
Thermal Pollution:	Discharge of excessive amounts of waste heat into the environment.
Threatened:	Likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future if current trends continue.
Tragedy of the Commons:	Over-exploitation of a commonly held resource that occurs when people follow their own self-interests.
Trophic levels:	Functional classification of an organism according to their feeding relationships; e.g., herbivores, members of the second trophic level, eat autotrophs, members of the first trophic level.
Turbidity:	Indicates the amount of solids suspended in water.
Vascular System:	Tissues that conduct water, minerals, and food from one part of a plant to another.
Vertebrates:	Animals with backbones, e.g., fish, humans.
Viviparity:	Condition of giving birth to young rather than laying eggs.
Wading Birds:	Describes long-legged and long-necked birds adapted to feeding in water, e.g., herons, egrets, and ibis.
Water Potential:	A measure of the energy of water, determined by the opposing forces of osmotic potential and turgor pressure.
Water Quality Monitoring:	A process by which chemical and physical parameters are observed and recorded.

Watershed:	An area defined by the water that drains through flowing into a larger body of water.
Xylem:	Tissue that conducts sap from the roots to the leaves of plants.
Zoea:	Early larval stage of certain decapod crustaceans.
Zooplankton:	Animals floating in the surface layers of a body of water.

