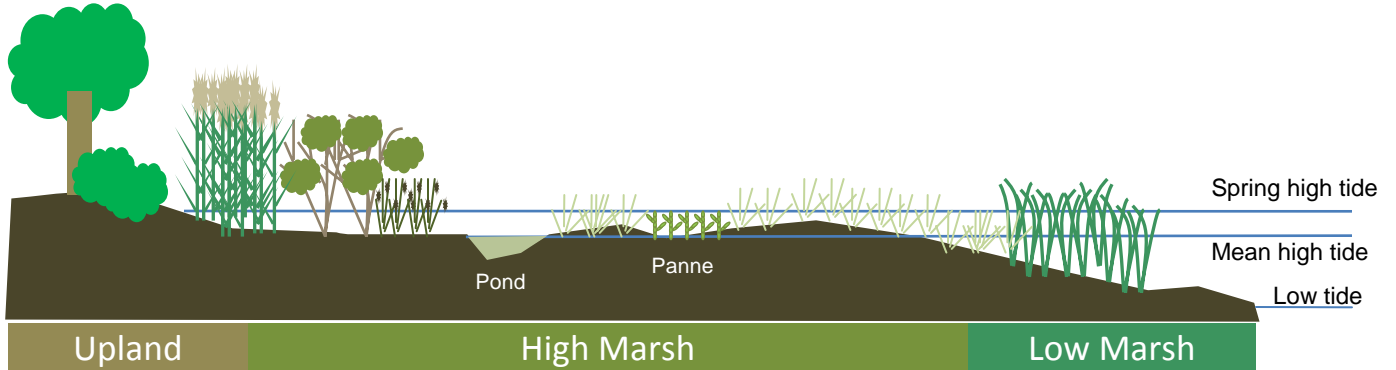


# Salt Marsh

Salt marshes are found at the edges of marine and estuarine water bodies, and are dominated by plants that are tolerant of a range of salinities and being regularly flooded by tides. They are one of the most productive ecosystems on the planet. They provide food and shelter for many estuarine organisms, including crabs, shellfish, and young fish. Salt marshes are divided into zones that are created due to different lengths of time that parts of the marsh are underwater and how tolerant the plants are to salt water.



Salt marshes have been changed by humans for hundreds of years. Many of them have straight ditches dug through them that drain the marsh and are used to keep mosquitoes from breeding in standing water. Others are "tidally-restricted" by the construction of roads, so the salt water that is needed to keep them healthy doesn't flood the marsh as often as it should.

## Species in the salt marsh



Saltmarsh cordgrass  
(*Spartina alterniflora*)



Saltmeadow hay  
(*Spartina patens*)



Salt marsh spikegrass  
(*Distichlis spicata*)



Black rush  
(*Juncus gerardii*)



Mummichog  
(*Fundulus heteroclitus*)



Eastern mud snail  
(*Illyanassa obsoleta*)



Green crab\*  
(*Carcinus maenas*)



Ribbed mussel  
(*Geukensia demissa*)



Common Reed\*  
(*Phragmites australis*)

Are you able to see the zonation of the salt marsh? Can you see ditches dug into the marsh? What about natural creeks?

\*invasive species