

# National Wetlands Inventory

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SEPTEMBER 1989

# WETLANDS OF RHODE ISLAND



**U.S. Department of the Interior**

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Fish and Wildlife Service

# **WETLANDS OF RHODE ISLAND**

by

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# CHAPTER 1.

## Introduction

Wetlands are usually periodically flooded lands occurring between uplands and open water bodies such as lakes, rivers, streams, and estuaries. Many wetlands, however, may be isolated from such water bodies. These wetlands are located in areas with seasonally high water tables that are surrounded by upland. Wetlands are commonly referred to by a host of terms based on their location and characteristics, such as salt marsh, tidal marsh, mudflat, wet meadow, cedar swamp, and hardwood swamp. These areas are important natural resources with numerous values, including fish and wildlife habitat, flood protection, erosion control, and water quality maintenance.

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has always recognized the importance of wetlands to waterfowl, other migratory birds and wildlife. The Service's responsibility for protecting these habitats comes largely from international treaties concerning migratory birds and from the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The Service has been active in protecting these resources through various programs. The Service's National Wildlife Refuge System was established to preserve and enhance migratory bird habitat in strategic locations across the country. More than 10 million ducks breed annually in U.S. wetlands and millions more overwinter here. The Service also reviews Federal projects and applications for Federal permits that involve wetland alteration.

Since the 1950's, the Service has been particularly concerned about wetland losses and their impact on fish and wildlife populations. In 1954, the Service conducted its first nationwide wetlands inventory which focused on important waterfowl wetlands. This survey was performed to provide information for considering fish and wildlife impacts in land-use decisions. The results of this inventory were published in a well-known Service report entitled *Wetlands of the United States*, commonly referred to as Circular 39 (Shaw and Fredine 1956).

Since this survey, wetlands have undergone many changes, both natural and human-induced. The conversion of wetlands for agriculture, residential and industrial developments and other uses has continued. During the 1960's, the general public in many states became more aware of wetland values and concerned about wetland losses. They began to realize that wetlands provided significant public benefits besides fish and wildlife habitat, especially flood protection and water quality maintenance.

Prior to this time, wetlands were regarded by most people as wastelands, whose best use could only be attained by alteration, e.g., draining for agriculture, dredging and filling for industrial and housing developments and filling with sanitary landfill. Scientific studies demonstrating wetlands values, especially for coastal marshes, were instrumental in increasing public awareness of wetland benefits and stimulating concern for wetland protection. Consequently, several states passed laws to protect coastal wetlands, including Massachusetts (1963), Rhode Island (1965), Connecticut (1969), New Jersey (1970), Maryland (1970), Georgia (1970), New York (1972) and Delaware (1973). Four of these states subsequently adopted inland or nontidal wetland protection legislation: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York. Most of the other states in the Nation with coastal wetlands followed the lead of these northeastern states and enacted laws to protect or regulate uses of coastal wetlands. During the early 1970's, the Federal government also assumed greater responsibility for wetlands through Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (later amended as the Clean Water Act of 1977) and by strengthening wetland protection under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Federal permits are now required for many types of construction in many wetlands, although normal agricultural and forestry activities are exempt.

With increased public interest in wetlands and strengthened government regulation, the Service considered how it could contribute to this resource management effort, since it has prime responsibility for protection and management of the Nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. The Service recognized the need for sound ecological information to make decisions regarding policy, planning, and management of the country's wetland resources, and established the National Wetlands Inventory Project (NWI) in 1974 to fulfill this need. The NWI aims to generate scientific information on the characteristics and extent of the Nation's wetlands. The purpose of this information is to foster wise use of U.S. wetlands and to provide data for making quick and accurate resource decisions.

Two very different kinds of information are needed: (1) detailed maps and (2) status and trends reports. First, detailed wetland maps are needed for impact assessment of site-specific projects. These maps serve a purpose similar to the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service's soil

survey maps, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's coastal and geodetic survey maps, and the U.S. Geological Survey's topographic maps. Detailed wetland maps are used by local, state and Federal agencies as well as by private industry and organizations for many purposes, including watershed management plans, environmental impact assessments, permit reviews, facility and corridor sitings, oil spill contingency plans, natural resource inventories, wildlife surveys and other uses. To date, wetland maps have been prepared for 61% of the lower 48 states, 18% of Alaska, and all of Hawaii. Secondly, national estimates of the current status and recent losses and gains of wetlands are needed in order to provide improved information for reviewing the effectiveness of existing Federal programs and policies, for identifying national or regional problems and for general public awareness. Technical and popular reports about these trends have been recently published (Framer, *et al.* 1983; Tiner 1984).

## Rhode Island Wetlands Inventory

Rhode Island's wetlands were mapped as part of a larger inventory including Massachusetts, coastal Maine and southern New Hampshire. Although each of these states had mapped wetlands to some extent, there was no consistency from state to state, due to differences in wetland definitions and inventory procedures. The Service's National Wetlands Inventory Project (NWI) has produced a consistent and more up-to-date set of maps and other data for New England wetlands. The Rhode Island wetlands inventory provides government administrators, private industry, and others with improved information for project planning and environmental impact evaluation and for making land-use decisions. This inventory identifies the current status of Rhode Island's wetlands and serves as the base from which future changes can be determined.

## Description of the Study Area

Rhode Island is the smallest state in the Nation, occupying 1,058 square miles or 677,120 acres (Rector 1981). The state is divided into five counties: Bristol, Kent, Newport, Providence, and Washington (Figure 1). Narragansett Bay is a dominant feature in the state, as it essentially separates Newport and Bristol Counties from the rest of the state. The landscape is part of the Eastern Deciduous Forest Province, Appalachian Oak Forest Section as defined by Bailey (1978). The northern part of the state falls within the White Pine Region of southern New England as characterized by Bromley (1935).

The climate of Rhode Island has been described by Rector (1981) and elsewhere. In general, the climate is

characterized by cold winters and warm summers, with a moderating ocean influence. Average winter temperature is 30°F with lowest temperatures ranging between -10°F and -20°F. Summer temperatures average 70°F and peak in the 90's. The growing season ranges from late March and early April to November. Annual precipitation averages from 44 to 48 inches, with precipitation relatively evenly distributed throughout the year. Thunderstorms occur mostly in the summer. Average snowfall is 36 inches and maximum snowfall usually occurs in February.

## Purpose and Organization of this Report

The purpose of this publication is to report the findings of the Service's wetlands inventory of Rhode Island. The discussion will focus on wetlands with a few references to deepwater habitats which were also inventoried. The following chapters will include discussions of wetland concept and classification (Chapter 2), inventory techniques and results (Chapter 3), wetland formation and hydrology (Chapter 4), hydric soils (Chapter 5), wetland vegetation and plant communities (Chapter 6), wetland values (Chapter 7), and wetland protection (Chapter 8). The appendix contains a list of vascular plants associated with Rhode Island's wetlands. Scientific names of plants follow the *National List of Scientific Plant Names* (U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service 1982). A figure showing the general distribution of Rhode Island's wetlands and deepwater habitats is provided as an enclosure at the back of this report. (*Note:* This figure shows many forested wetlands of various sizes and only the large emergent and scrub-shrub wetlands, thus many smaller wetlands of these latter types are not depicted; this is perhaps most evident by the lack of wetlands shown for Block Island.)

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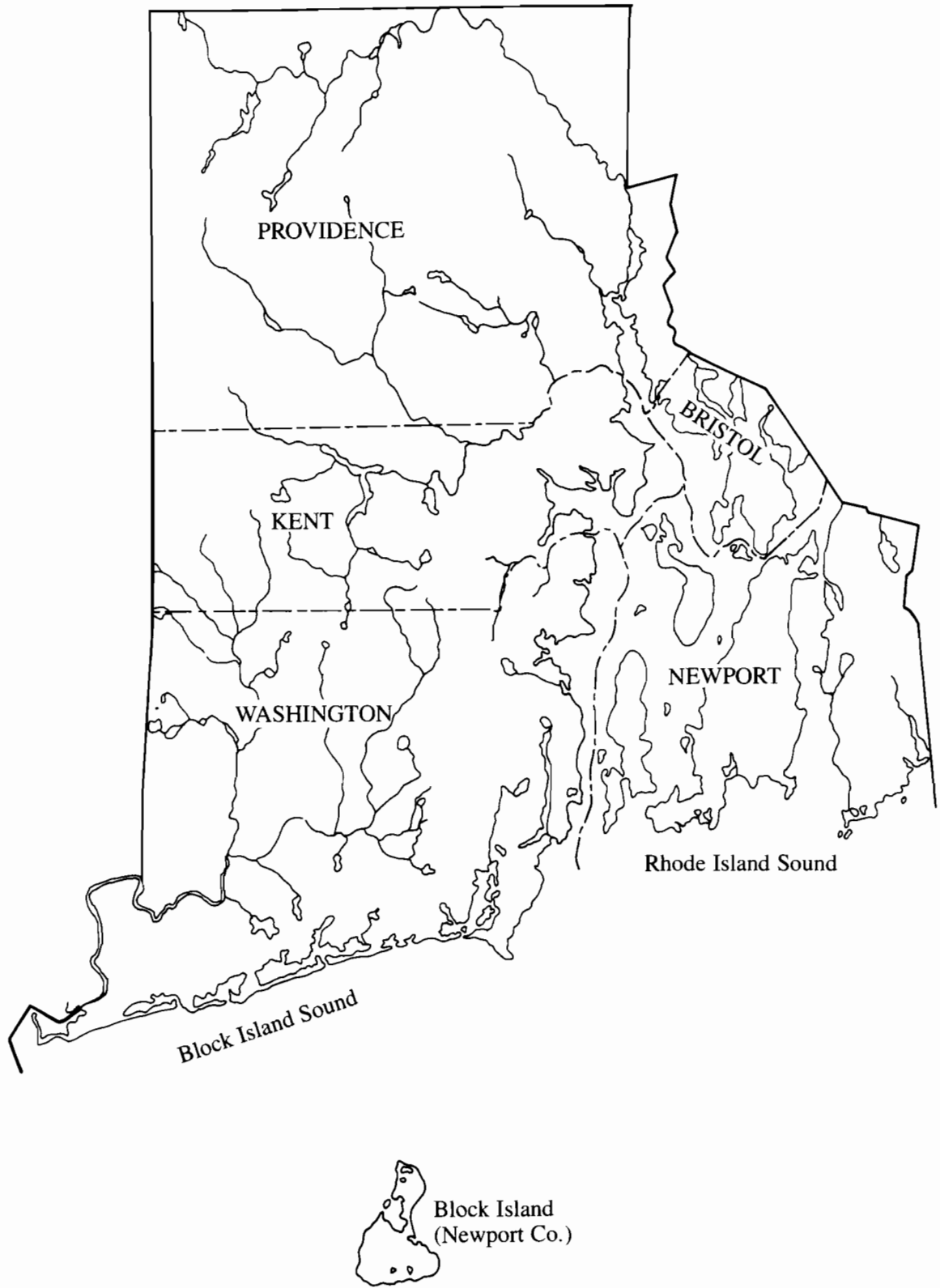


Figure 1. Rhode Island and its counties.

## CHAPTER 2.

# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wetland Definition and Classification System

### Introduction

To begin inventorying the Nation's wetlands, the Service needed a definition of wetland and a classification system to identify various wetlands types. The Service, therefore, examined recent wetland inventories throughout the country to learn how others defined and classified wetlands. The results of this examination were published as *Existing State and Local Wetlands Surveys (1965–1975)* (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1976). More than 50 wetland classification schemes were identified. Of those, only one classification—the Martin, *et al.* system (1953)—was nationally based, while all others were regionally focused. In January 1975, the Service brought together 14 authors of regional wetland classifications and other prominent wetland scientists to help decide if any existing classification could be used or modified for the national inventory or if a new system was needed. They recommended that the Service attempt to develop a new national wetland classification. In July 1975, the Service sponsored the National Wetland Classification and Inventory Workshop, where more than 150 wetland scientists and mapping experts met to review a preliminary draft of the new wetland classification system. The consensus was that the system should be hierarchical in nature and built around the concept of ecosystems (Sather 1976).

Four key objectives for the new system were established: (1) to develop ecologically similar habitat units, (2) to arrange these units in a system that would facilitate resource management decisions, (3) to furnish units for inventory and mapping, and (4) to provide uniformity in concept and terminology throughout the country (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979).

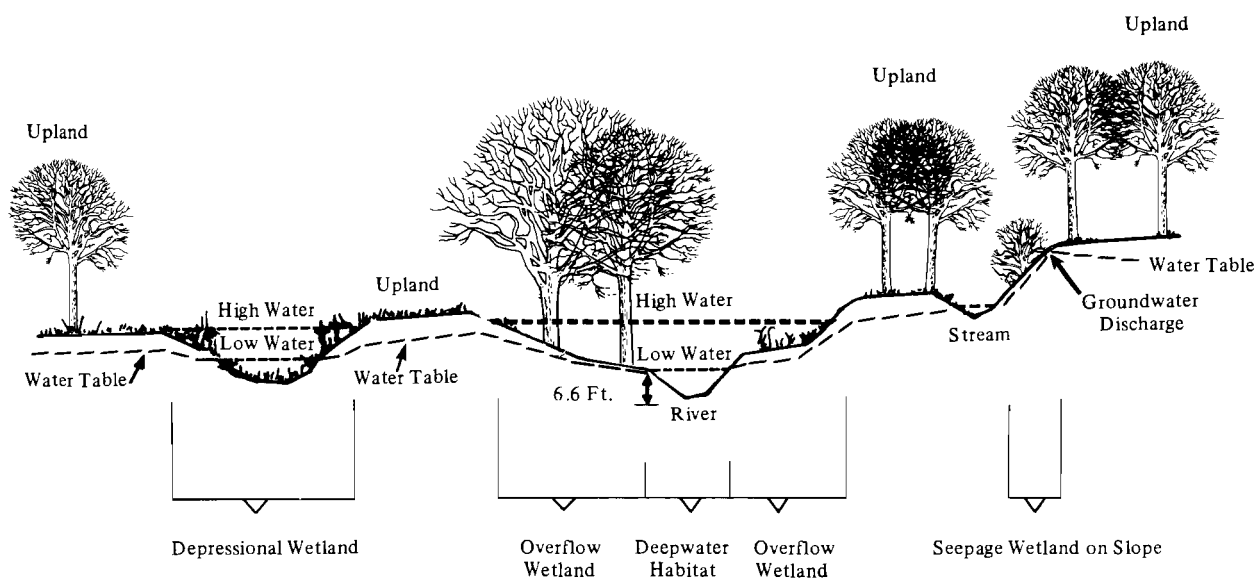
The Service's wetland classification system was developed by a four-member team, i.e., Dr. Lewis M. Cowardin (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Virginia Carter (U.S. Geological Survey), Dr. Francis C. Golet (University of Rhode Island) and Dr. Edward T. LaRoe (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), with assistance from numerous Federal and state agencies, university scientists, and other interested individuals. The classification system went through three major drafts and extensive field testing prior to its publication as *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979). Since its publica-

tion, the Service's classification system has been widely used by Federal, state, and local agencies, university scientists, and private industry and non-profit organizations for identifying and classifying wetlands. At the First International Wetlands Conference in New Delhi, India, scientists from around the world adopted the Service's wetland definition as an international standard and recommended testing the applicability of the classification system in other areas, especially in the tropics and subtropics (Gopal, *et al.* 1982). Thus, the system appears to be moving quickly towards its goal of providing uniformity in wetland concept and terminology.

### Wetland Definition

Conceptually, wetlands usually lie between the better drained, rarely flooded uplands and the permanently flooded deep waters of lakes, rivers and coastal embayments (Figure 2). Wetlands generally include the variety of marshes, bogs, swamps, shallow ponds, and bottomland forests that occur throughout the country. They usually lie in depressions surrounded by upland or along rivers, lakes and coastal waters where they are subject to periodic flooding. Some wetlands, however, occur on slopes where they are associated with ground-water seepage areas. To accurately inventory this resource, the Service had to determine where along this natural wetness continuum wetland ends and upland begins. While many wetlands lie in distinct depressions or basins that are readily observable, the wetland-upland boundary is not always easy to identify. This is especially true along many floodplains, on glacial till deposits, in gently sloping terrain, and in areas of major hydrologic modification. In these areas, only a skilled wetland ecologist or other specialist can accurately identify the wetland boundary. To help ensure accurate and consistent wetland determination, an ecologically based definition was constructed by the Service.

Historically, wetlands were defined by scientists working in specialized fields, such as botany or hydrology. A botanical definition would focus on the plants adapted to flooding or saturated soil conditions, while a hydrologist's definition would emphasize fluctuations in the position of the water table relative to the ground surface over time. Lefor and Kennard (1977) reviewed numerous definitions for inland wetlands used in the Northeast. Single



**Figure 2.** Schematic diagram showing wetlands, deepwater habitats, and uplands on the landscape. Note differences in wetlands due to hydrology and topographic position.

parameter definitions in general are not very useful for identifying wetlands. A more complete definition of wetland involves a multi-disciplinary approach. The Service has taken this approach in developing its wetland definition and classification system.

The Service has not attempted to legally define wetland, since each state or Federal regulatory agency has defined wetland somewhat differently to suit its administrative purposes (Table 1). Therefore, according to existing wetland laws, a wetland is whatever the law says it is. The Service needed a definition that would allow accurate identification and delineation of the Nation's wetlands for resource management purposes.

The Service defines wetlands as follows:

*"Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For purposes of this classification wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and (3) the substrate is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year."* (Cowardin, et al. 1979)

In defining wetlands from an ecological standpoint, the Service emphasizes three key attributes of wetlands: (1) hydrology—the degree of flooding or soil saturation, (2) wetland vegetation (hydrophytes), and (3) hydric soils. All areas considered wetland must have enough water at

some time during the growing season to stress plants and animals not adapted for life in water or saturated soils. Most wetlands have hydrophytes and hydric soils present, yet many are nonvegetated (e.g., tidal mud flats). The Service has prepared a list of plants occurring in the Nation's wetlands (Reed 1988) and the Soil Conservation Service has developed a national list of hydric soils (U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service 1987) to help identify wetlands.

Particular attention should be paid to the reference to flooding or soil saturation during the growing season in the Service's wetland definition. When soils are covered by water or saturated to the surface, free oxygen is generally not available to plant roots. During the growing season, most plant roots must have access to free oxygen for respiration and growth; flooding at this time would have serious implications for the growth and survival of most plants. In a wetland situation, plants must be adapted to cope with these stressful conditions. If, however, flooding only occurs in winter when the plants are dormant, there is little or no effect on them.

Wetlands typically fall within one of the following four categories: (1) areas with both hydrophytes and hydric soils (e.g., marshes, swamps and bogs), (2) areas without hydrophytes, but with hydric soils (e.g., farmed wetlands), (3) areas without soils but with hydrophytes (e.g., seaweed-covered rocky shores), and (4) periodically flooded areas without soil and without hydrophytes (e.g., gravel beaches). All wetlands must be periodically saturated or covered by shallow water during the growing season, whether or not hydrophytes or hydric soils are present. Completely drained hydric soils that are no

**Table 1.** Definitions of “wetland” according to selected Federal agencies and state statutes.

Organization (Reference)	Wetland Definition	Comments
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Cowardin, <i>et al.</i> 1979)	“Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For purposes of this classification wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and (3) the substrate is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year.”	This is the official Fish and Wildlife Service definition and is being used for conducting an inventory of the Nation’s wetlands. It emphasizes flooding and/or soil saturation, hydric soils and vegetation. Shallow lakes and ponds are included as wetland. Comprehensive lists of wetland plants and soils are available to further clarify this definition.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Federal Register, July 19, 1977) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Federal Register, December 24, 1980)	Wetlands are “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.”	Regulatory definition in response to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977. Excludes similar areas lacking vegetation, such as tidal flats, and does not define lakes, ponds and rivers as wetlands. Aquatic beds are considered “vegetated shallows” and included as other “waters of the United States” for regulatory purposes.
U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service (National Food Security Act Manual, 1988)	“Wetlands are defined as areas that have a predominance of hydric soils and that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, except lands in Alaska identified as having a high potential for agricultural development and a predominance of permafrost soils.”	This is the Soil Conservation Service’s definition for implementing the “Swampbuster” provision of the Food Security Act of 1985. Any area that meets hydric soil criteria is considered to have a predominance of hydric soils. Note the geographical exclusion for certain lands in Alaska.
State of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Mgmt. Council (RI Coastal Resources Mgmt. Program as amended June 28, 1983)	“Coastal wetlands include salt marshes and freshwater or brackish wetlands contiguous to salt marshes. Areas of open water within coastal wetlands are considered a part of the wetland. Salt marshes are areas regularly inundated by salt water through either natural or artificial water courses and where one or more of the following species predominate: [8 indicator plants listed]. Contiguous and associated freshwater or brackish marshes are those where one or more of the following species predominate: [9 indicator plants listed].”	State’s public policy on coastal wetlands. Definition based on hydrologic connection to tidal waters and presence of indicator plants. <i>Note:</i> Original definition made reference to the occurrence and extent of salt marsh peat; it was probably deleted since many salt marsh soils are not peats, but sands.
State of Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Mgmt. (RI General Law, Sections 2-1-18 et seq.)	Fresh water wetlands are defined to include, “but not be limited to marshes; swamps; bogs; ponds; river and stream flood plains and banks; areas subject to flooding or storm flowage; emergent and submergent plant communities in any body of fresh water including rivers and streams and that area of land within fifty feet (50’) of the edge of any bog, marsh, swamp, or pond.” Various wetland types are further defined on the basis of hydrology and indicator plants, including bog (15 types of indicator plants), marsh (21 types of plants), and swamp (24 types of indicator plants plus marsh plants).	Fresh Water Wetlands Act definition. Several wetland types are further defined. The definition includes deepwater areas and the 100-year flood plain as wetland. Minimum size limits are placed on ponds (one quarter acre), marsh (one acre), and swamp (three acres). Under the definition of “river bank,” all land within 100 feet of any flowing body of water less than 10 feet wide during normal flow and within 200 feet of any flowing body of water 10 feet or wider is protected as wetland.

longer capable of supporting hydrophytes due to a change in water regime are not considered wetland. Areas with completely drained hydric soils are, however, good indicators of historic wetlands, which may be suitable for restoration through mitigation projects.

It is important to mention that the Service does not generally include permanently flooded deep water areas as wetland, although shallow waters are classified as wetland. Instead, these deeper water bodies are defined as deepwater habitats, since water and not air is the principal medium in which dominant organisms live. Along the coast in tidal areas, the deepwater habitat begins at the extreme spring low tide level. In nontidal freshwater areas, this habitat starts at a depth of 6.6 feet (2 m) because the shallow water areas are often vegetated with emergent wetland plants.

## Wetland Classification

The following section represents a simplified overview of the Service's wetland classification system. Consequently, some of the more technical points have been omitted from this discussion. When actually classifying a wetland, the reader is advised to refer to the official classification document (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979) and should not rely solely on this overview.

The Service's wetland classification system is hierarchical or vertical in nature proceeding from general to specific, as noted in Figure 3. In this approach, wetlands are first defined at a rather broad level—the *SYSTEM*. The term *SYSTEM* represents "a complex of wetlands and deepwater habitats that share the influence of similar hydrologic, geomorphologic, chemical, or biological factors." Five systems are defined: Marine, Estuarine, Riverine, Lacustrine and Palustrine. The Marine System generally consists of the open ocean and its associated high-energy coastline, while the Estuarine System encompasses salt and brackish marshes, nonvegetated tidal shores, and brackish waters of coastal rivers and embayments. Freshwater wetlands and deepwater habitats fall into one of the other three systems: Riverine (rivers and streams), Lacustrine (lakes, reservoirs and large ponds), or Palustrine (e.g., marshes, bogs, swamps and small shallow ponds). Thus, at the most general level, wetlands can be defined as either Marine, Estuarine, Riverine, Lacustrine or Palustrine (Figure 4).

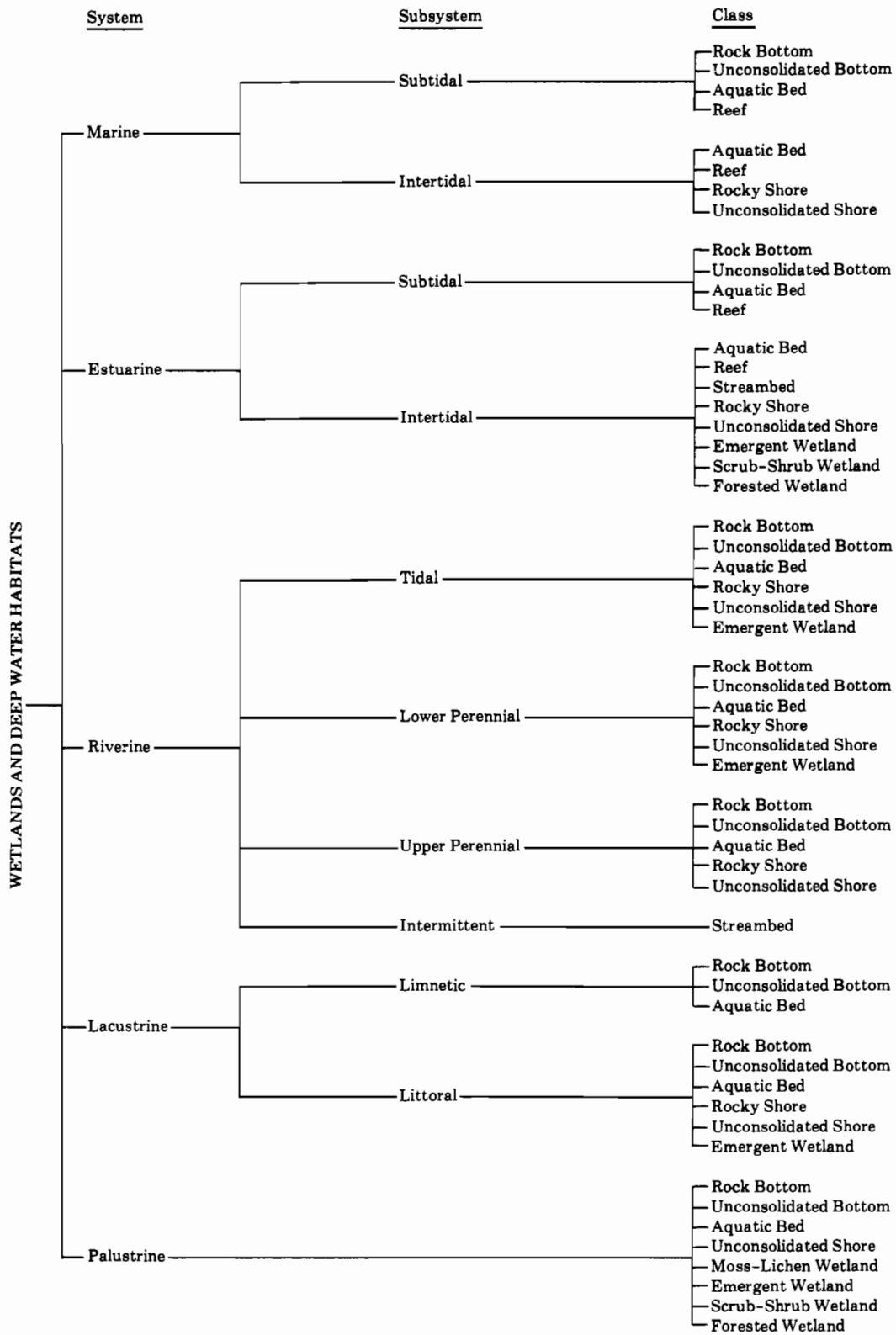
Each system, with the exception of the Palustrine, is further subdivided into *SUBSYSTEMS*. The Marine and Estuarine Systems both have the same two subsystems, which are defined by tidal water levels: (1) Subtidal—continuously submerged areas and (2) Intertidal—areas

alternately flooded by tides and exposed to air. Similarly, the Lacustrine System is separated into two systems based on water depth: (1) Littoral—wetlands extending from the lake shore to a depth of 6.6 feet (2 m) below low water or to the extent of nonpersistent emergents (e.g., arrowheads, pickerelweed or spatterdock) if they grow beyond that depth, and (2) Limnetic—deepwater habitats lying beyond the 6.6 feet (2 m) at low water. By contrast, the Riverine System is further defined by four subsystems that represent different reaches of a flowing freshwater or lotic system: (1) Tidal—water levels subject to tidal fluctuations, (2) Lower Perennial—permanent, flowing waters with a well-developed floodplain, (3) Upper Perennial—permanent, flowing water with very little or no floodplain development, and (4) Intermittent—channel containing nontidal flowing water for only part of the year.

The next level—*CLASS*—describes the general appearance of the wetland or deepwater habitat in terms of the dominant vegetative life form or the nature and composition of the substrate, where vegetative cover is less than 30% (Table 2). Of the 11 classes, five refer to areas where vegetation covers 30% or more of the surface: Aquatic Bed, Moss-Lichen Wetland, Emergent Wetland, Scrub-Shrub Wetland and Forested Wetland. The remaining six classes represent areas generally lacking vegetation, where the composition of the substrate and degree of flooding distinguish classes: Rock Bottom, Unconsolidated Bottom, Reef (sedentary invertebrate colony), Streambed, Rocky Shore, and Unconsolidated Shore. Permanently flooded nonvegetated areas are classified as either Rock Bottom or Unconsolidated Bottom, while exposed areas are typed as Streambed, Rocky Shore or Unconsolidated Shore. Invertebrate reefs are found in both permanently flooded and exposed areas.

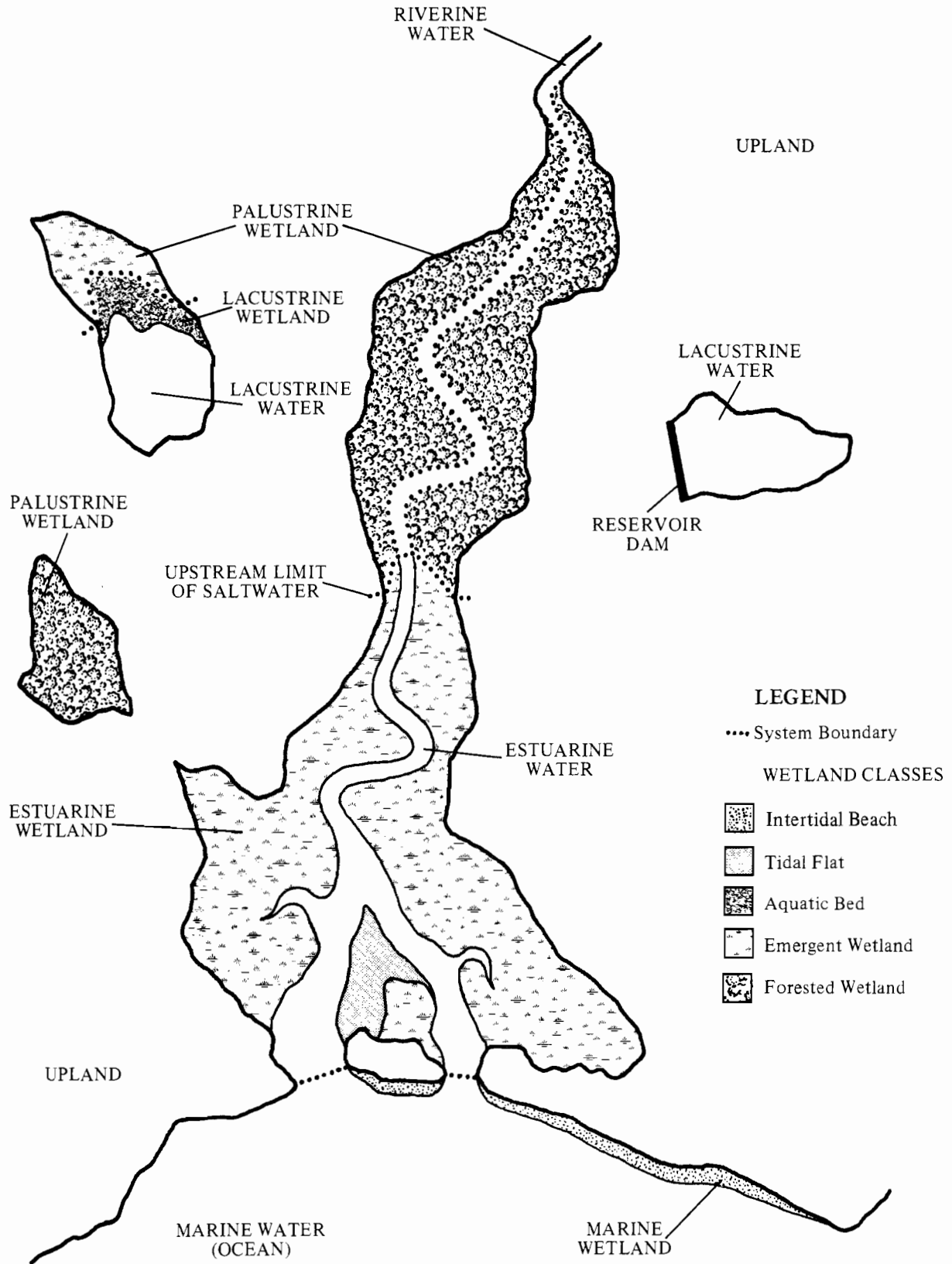
Each class is further divided into *SUBCLASSES* to better define the type of substrate in nonvegetated areas (e.g., bedrock, rubble, cobble-gravel, mud, sand, and organic) or the type of dominant vegetation (e.g., persistent or nonpersistent emergents, moss, lichen, or broad-leaved deciduous, needle-leaved deciduous, broad-leaved evergreen, needle-leaved evergreen and dead woody plants). Below the subclass level, *DOMINANCE TYPE* can be applied to specify the predominant plant or animal in the wetland community.

To allow better description of a given wetland or deepwater habitat in regard to hydrologic, chemical and soil characteristics and to human impacts, the classification system contains four types of specific modifiers: (1) Water Regime, (2) Water Chemistry, (3) Soil, and (4) Special. These modifiers may be applied to class and lower levels of the classification hierarchy.



**Figure 3.** Classification hierarchy of wetlands and deepwater habitats showing systems, subsystems, and classes. The Palustrine System does not include deepwater habitats (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979).





**Figure 4.** Diagram showing major wetland and deepwater habitat systems. Predominant wetland classes for each system are also designated. (Note: Tidal flat and beach classes are now considered unconsolidated shore.)

**Table 2.** Classes and subclasses of wetlands and deepwater habitats (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979).

Class	Brief Description	Subclasses
Rock Bottom	Generally permanently flooded areas with bottom substrates consisting of at least 75% stones and boulders and less than 30% vegetative cover.	Bedrock; Rubble.
Unconsolidated Bottom	Generally permanently flooded areas with bottom substrates consisting of at least 25% particles smaller than stones and less than 30% vegetative cover.	Cobble-gravel; Sand; Mud; Organic
Aquatic Bed	Generally permanently flooded areas vegetated by plants growing principally on or below the water surface line.	Algal; Aquatic Moss; Rooted Vascular; Floating Vascular
Reef	Ridge-like or mound-like structures formed by the colonization and growth of sedentary invertebrates.	Coral; Mollusk; Worm
Streambed	Channel whose bottom is completely dewatered at low water periods.	Bedrock; Rubble; Cobble-gravel; Sand; Mud; Organic; Vegetated
Rocky Shore	Wetlands characterized by bedrock, stones or boulders with areal coverage of 75% or more and with less than 30% coverage by vegetation.	Bedrock; Rubble
Unconsolidated Shore*	Wetlands having unconsolidated substrates with less than 75% coverage by stone, boulders and bedrock and less than 30% vegetative cover, except by pioneer plants.  (*NOTE: This class combines two classes of the 1977 operational draft system—Beach/Bar and Flat)	Cobble-gravel; Sand; Mud; Organic; Vegetated
Moss-Lichen Wetland	Wetlands dominated by mosses or lichens where other plants have less than 30% coverage.	Moss; Lichen
Emergent Wetland	Wetlands dominated by erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytes.	Persistent; Nonpersistent
Scrub-Shrub Wetland	Wetlands dominated by woody vegetation less than 20 feet (6 m) tall.	Broad-leaved Deciduous; Needle-leaved Deciduous; Broad-leaved Evergreen; Needle-leaved Evergreen; Dead
Forested Wetland	Wetlands dominated by wood vegetation 20 feet (6 m) or taller.	Broad-leaved Deciduous; Needle-leaved Deciduous; Broad-leaved Evergreen; Needle-leaved Evergreen; Dead

Water regime modifiers describe flooding or soil saturation conditions and are divided into two main groups: (1) tidal and (2) nontidal. Tidal water regimes are used where water level fluctuations are largely driven by oceanic tides. Tidal regimes can be subdivided into two general categories, one for salt and brackish water tidal areas and another for freshwater tidal areas. This distinction is needed because of the special importance of seasonal river overflow and ground-water inflows in freshwater tidal areas. By contrast, nontidal modifiers define conditions where surface water runoff, ground-water discharge, and/or wind effects (i.e., lake seiches) cause water level changes. Both tidal and nontidal water regime modifiers are presented and briefly defined in Table 3.

Water chemistry modifiers are divided into two categories which describe the water's salinity or hydrogen ion concentration (pH): (1) salinity modifiers and (2) pH modifiers. Like water regimes, salinity modifiers have been further subdivided into two groups: halinity modifiers for tidal areas and salinity modifiers for nontidal areas. Estuarine and marine waters are dominated by so-

dium chloride, which is gradually diluted by fresh water as one moves upstream in coastal rivers. On the other hand, the salinity of inland waters is dominated by four major cations (i.e., calcium, magnesium, sodium and potassium) and three major anions (i.e., carbonate, sulfate, and chloride). Interactions between precipitation, surface runoff, ground-water flow, evaporation, and sometimes plant evapotranspiration form inland salts which are most common in arid and semiarid regions of the country. Table 4 shows ranges of halinity and salinity modifiers which are a modification of the Venice System (Remane and Schlieper 1971). The other set of water chemistry modifiers are pH modifiers for identifying acid (pH<5.5), circumneutral (5.5–7.4) and alkaline (pH>7.4) waters. Some studies have shown a good correlation between plant distribution and pH levels (Sjors 1950; Jeglum 1971). Moreover, pH can be used to distinguish between mineral-rich (e.g., fens) and mineral-poor wetlands (e.g., bogs).

The third group of modifiers—soil modifiers—are presented because the nature of the soil exerts strong influ-

**Table 3.** Water regime modifiers, both tidal and nontidal groups (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979).

Group	Type of Water	Water Regime	Definition
Tidal	Saltwater and brackish areas	Subtidal	Permanently flooded tidal waters
		Irregularly exposed	Exposed less often than daily by tides
		Regularly flooded	Daily tidal flooding and exposure to air
		Irregularly flooded	Flooded less often than daily and typically exposed to air
	Freshwater	Permanently flooded-tidal	Permanently flooded by tides and river or exposed irregularly by tides
		Semipermanently flooded-tidal	Flooded for most of the growing season by river overflow but with tidal fluctuation in water levels
		Regularly flooded	Daily tidal flooding and exposure to air
		Seasonally flooded-tidal	Flooded irregularly by tides and seasonally by river overflow
		Temporarily flooded-tidal	Flooded irregularly by tides and for brief periods during growing season by river overflow
Nontidal	Inland freshwater and saline areas	Permanently flooded	Flooded throughout the year in all years
		Intermittently exposed	Flooded year-round except during extreme droughts
		Semipermanently flooded	Flooded throughout the growing season in most years
		Seasonally flooded	Flooded for extended periods in growing season, but surface water is usually absent by end of growing season
		Saturated	Surface water is seldom present, but substrate is saturated to the surface for most of the season
		Temporarily flooded	Flooded for only brief periods during growing season, with water table usually well below the soil surface for most of the season
		Intermittently flooded	Substrate is usually exposed and only flooded for variable periods without detectable seasonal periodicity (Not always wetland; may be upland in some situations)
		Artificially flooded	Duration and amount of flooding is controlled by means of pumps or siphons in combination with dikes or dams

**Table 4.** Salinity modifiers for coastal and inland areas (Cowardin *et al.*, 1979).

Coastal Modifiers <sup>1</sup>	Inland Modifiers <sup>2</sup>	Salinity (‰)	Approximate Specific Conductance (Mhos at 25° C)
Hyperhaline	Hypersaline	>40	>60,000
Euhaline	Eusaline	30–40	45,000–60,000
Mixohaline (Brackish)	Mixosaline <sup>3</sup>	0.5–30	800–45,000
Polyhaline	Polysaline	18–30	30,000–45,000
Mesohaline	Mesosaline	5–18	8,000–30,000
Oligohaline	Oligosaline	0.5–5	800–8,000
Fresh	Fresh	<0.5	<800

<sup>1</sup>Coastal modifiers are employed in the Marine and Estuarine Systems.

<sup>2</sup>Inland modifiers are employed in the Riverine, Lacustrine and Palustrine Systems.

<sup>3</sup>The term “brackish” should not be used for inland wetlands or deepwater habitats.

ences on plant growth and reproduction as well as on the animals living in it. Two soil modifiers are given: (1) mineral and (2) organic. In general, if a soil has 20 percent or more organic matter by weight in the upper 16 inches, it is considered an organic soil, whereas if it has less than this amount, it is a mineral soil. For specific definitions, please refer to Appendix D of the Service’s classification system (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979) or to *Soil Taxonomy* (Soil Survey Staff 1975).

The final set of modifiers—special modifiers—were established to describe the activities of people or beaver affecting wetlands and deepwater habitats. These modifiers include: excavated, impounded (i.e., to obstruct outflow of water), diked (i.e., to obstruct inflow of water), partly drained, farmed, and artificial (i.e., materials deposited to create or modify a wetland or deepwater habitat).

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## CHAPTER 3.

# National Wetlands Inventory Mapping Techniques and Results

### Introduction

The National Wetlands Inventory Project (NWI) utilizes remote sensing techniques with supplemental field investigations for wetland identification and mapping. High-altitude aerial photography ranging in scale from 1:58,000 to 1:80,000 serves as the primary remote imagery source. Once suitable high-altitude photography is obtained, there are seven major steps in preparing wetland maps: (1) field investigations, (2) photo interpretation, (3) review of existing wetland information, (4) quality assurance, (5) draft map production, (6) interagency review of draft maps, and (7) final map production. Steps 1, 2 and 3 encompass the basic data collection phase of the inventory. After publication of final wetland maps for Rhode Island, the Service began collecting acreage data on the state's wetlands and deepwater habitats. The procedures used to inventory Rhode Island's wetlands and the results of this inventory are discussed in the following sections.

### Wetlands Inventory Techniques

#### Mapping Photography

For mapping Rhode Island's wetlands, the Service used 1:80,000 black and white photography (Figure 5). Most of this imagery was acquired from the spring of 1974 to the spring of 1977. Thus, the effective period of this inventory can be considered the mid-1970's.

#### Photo Interpretation and Collateral Data

Photo interpretation was performed by the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. All photo interpretation was done in stereo using mirror stereoscopes. Other collateral data sources used to aid in wetland detection and classification included:

- (1) 1:20,000 black and white photography (1975);
- (2) U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps;
- (3) U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service soil surveys;
- (4) U.S. Department of Commerce coastal and geodetic survey maps;
- (5) Rhode Island Map Down Land Use and Vegetative Cover Maps (MacConnell 1974).

Wetland photo interpretation, although extremely efficient and accurate for inventorying wetlands, does have certain limitations. Consequently, some problems arose during the course of the survey. Additional field work or use of collateral data was necessary to help overcome these constraints. These problems and their resolution are discussed below.

1. Spring flooding of certain wetlands. In some areas, spring flooding produced a dark photo signature, obscuring the wetland vegetation. Field checks and use of collateral photography allowed determination of appropriate vegetation class.
2. Identification of freshwater aquatic beds and nonpersistent emergent wetlands. Due to the primary use of spring photography, these wetland types were not interpretable. They were generally classified as open water, unless vegetation was observed during field investigations.
3. Identification of subclass in forested wetlands. Due to the spring flooding problem, field checks had to be conducted in many areas to distinguish deciduous from evergreen trees.
4. Inclusion of small upland areas within delineated wetlands. Small islands of higher elevation and better drained uplands naturally exist within many wetlands. Due to the minimum size of mapping units, small upland areas may be included within designated wetlands. Field inspections and/or use of larger-scale photography were used to refine wetland boundaries when necessary.
5. Forested wetlands on glacial till. These wetlands are difficult to identify in the field, let alone through air photo interpretation. Consequently, some of these wetlands were not detected and do not appear on the NWI maps.

#### Field Investigations

Ground truthing surveys were conducted to collect information on plant communities of various wetlands and to gain confidence in detecting and classifying wetlands from aerial photography. Detailed notes were taken at more than 70 sites throughout the state. In addition to

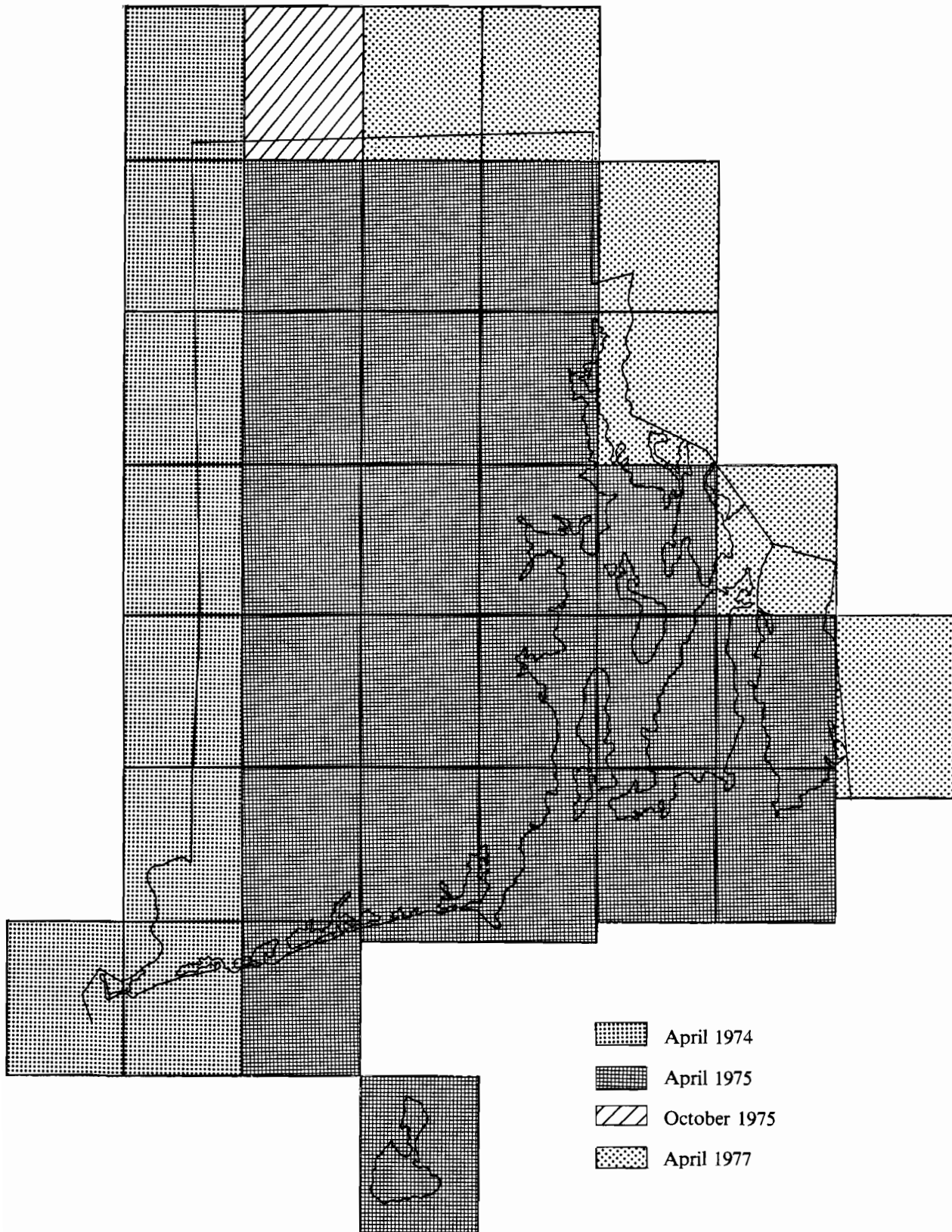


Figure 5. Index of aerial photography used for the National Wetlands Inventory in Rhode Island

these sites, observations were made at countless other wetlands for classification purposes and notations were recorded on appropriate topographic maps. In total, approximately three weeks were spent in the field examining wetlands.

### **Draft Map Production**

Upon completion of photo interpretation, two levels of quality assurance were performed: (1) regional quality control, and (2) national consistency quality assurance. Regional review of each interpreted photo was accomplished by Regional Office's NWI staff to ensure identification of all wetlands and proper classification. By contrast, national quality control by the NWI Group at St. Petersburg, Florida entailed spot checking of photos to ensure that national standards had been successfully followed. Once approved by quality assurance, draft large-scale (1:24,000) wetland maps were produced by the Group's support service contractor using Bausch and Lomb zoom transfer scopes.

### **Draft Map Review**

Draft maps were sent to the following agencies for review and comment:

- (1) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New England Field Office;
- (2) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (New England Division);
- (3) U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service;
- (4) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region I);
- (5) National Marine Fisheries Service; and
- (6) Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

In addition, the Regional Office's NWI staff conducted field checks and a thorough examination of draft maps to ensure proper placement of wetland polygons and labels as well as accurate classification.

### **Final Map Production**

All comments received were evaluated and incorporated into the final maps, as appropriate. Final maps were published in 1980.

### **Wetland Acreage Compilation**

In 1984, the Service collected wetland acreage information from NWI maps for Rhode Island. Area measurements were recorded using a video area measurement system (VAMS) rather than conventional planimeters.

The VAMS is a photo-optic system that allows the operator to fill in map polygons electronically, while the acreage is automatically determined and then recorded in a computer file. This technique allowed for preparation of acreage summaries on a county basis and for the entire state.

## **Wetlands Inventory Results**

### **National Wetlands Inventory Maps**

A total of thirty-seven (37) 1:24,000-scale wetland maps were produced. These maps identify the size, shape and type of wetlands and deepwater habitats in accordance with NWI specifications. The minimum mapping unit for wetlands ranges between approximately 1–3 acres. A recent evaluation of NWI maps in Massachusetts determined that these maps had accuracies exceeding 95% (Swartwout, *et al.* 1982). This high accuracy is possible because the inventory technique involves a combination of photo interpretation, field studies, use of existing information and interagency review of draft maps. Final maps have been available since 1980. Figure 6 shows an example of the large-scale map. In the near future, a series of small-scale wetland maps (1:100,000) will be produced by the NWI. Copies of NWI maps and a map catalogue can be ordered from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Freshwater Wetlands Section, 83 Park Street, Providence, RI 02903 (401/277-6820).

### **Wetland and Deepwater Habitat Acreage Summaries**

#### *State Totals*

According to this survey, Rhode Island possesses roughly 65,000 acres of wetlands and 106,000 acres of deepwater habitats, excluding marine waters and smaller rivers and streams that either appear as linear features on wetland maps or wetlands that were not identified due to their small size. About 10 percent of the state's land surface is represented by wetlands.

Nearly all (99 percent) of the state's wetlands fall within two systems—palustrine (88 percent) and estuarine (11 percent). The general distribution of Rhode Island's wetlands and deepwater habitats is shown on the enclosed figure at the back of this report.

Palustrine wetlands are slightly more than eight times more abundant than estuarine wetlands, covering 57,106 acres. Eighty-three percent of Rhode Island's freshwater wetlands are forested wetlands, with 77 percent of the total represented by broad-leaved deciduous forested wet-

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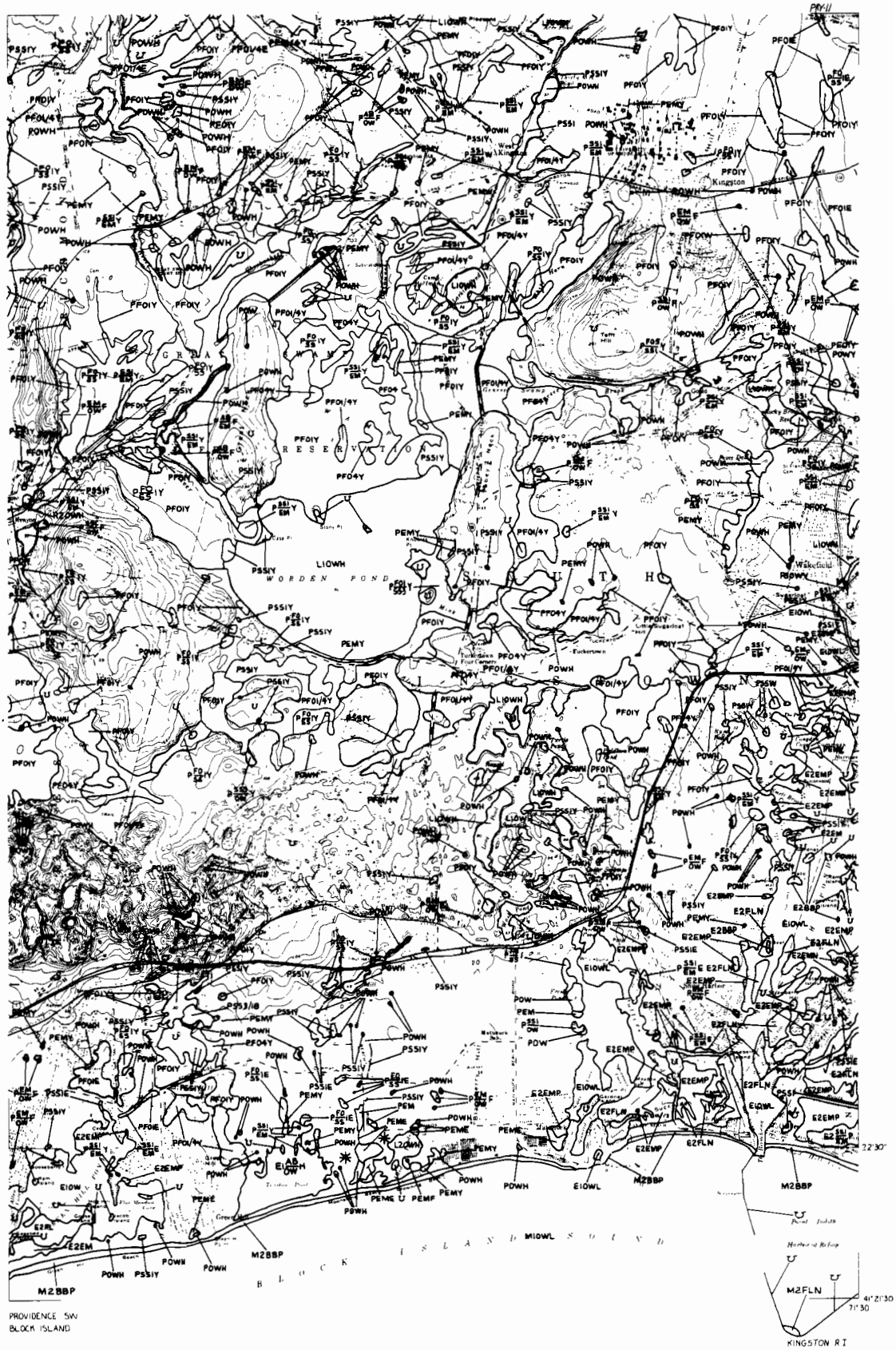


Figure 6. Example of a National Wetlands Inventory map. This is a reduction of a 1:24,000 scale map, with the legend omitted.



**Table 5.** Wetland acreage summaries for Rhode Island.

System	Class	Bristol County	Kent County	Newport County	Providence County	Washington County	State Total
Marine	Beach/Bar	—	—	147	—	342	489
	Rocky Shore	—	—	217	—	122	339
	Flat	—	—	99	—	4	103
	(Subtotal)	—	—	(463)	—	(468)	(931)
Estuarine	Beach/Bar	125	16	366	6	64	577
	Rocky Shore	—	—	20	—	2	22
	Flat	257	148	401	166	1,927	2,899
	Emergent Wetland	820	164	1,081	72	1,331	3,468
	Scrub-Shrub Wetland	—	—	—	—	52	52
	(Subtotal)	(1,202)	(328)	(1,868)	(244)	(3,376)	(7,018)
Palustrine	Open Water	32	389	302	783	929	2,435
	Aquatic Bed	1	17	1	14	41	74
	Emergent Wetland	33	180	378	691	397	1,679
	Scrub-Shrub Wetland						
	Deciduous	103	914	635	1,205	2,326	5,183
	Evergreen	—	7	—	54	58	119
	Forested Wetland						
	Broad-leaved Deciduous	658	5,880	4,359	12,032	21,219	44,148
	Needle-leaved Evergreen	—	566	3	820	1,850	3,239
	Dead	—	19	—	46	80	145
	Farmed Wetland (Cranberry Bog)	—	74	—	—	10	84
	(Subtotal)	(827)	(8,046)	(5,678)	(15,645)	(26,910)	(57,106)
Lacustrine	Aquatic Bed/Emergent Wetland (nonpersistent)	—	—	—	38	61	99
Total Wetlands		2,029	8,374	8,009	15,927	30,815	65,154

lands, mostly red maple swamps. Evergreen forested wetlands accounted for nearly six percent, whereas scrub-shrub wetlands make up nine percent of the freshwater wetlands. By contrast, emergent wetlands represent only three percent of the total inland wetlands, while small ponds (including aquatic beds) made up the remaining four percent.

Of the 7,018 estuarine wetland acres, 49 percent are emergent wetlands and 41 percent are intertidal flats. Scrub-shrub wetlands account for only 52 acres, whereas estuarine beaches total 577 acres.

Deepwater habitats in Rhode Island, excluding marine waters, total 106,257 acres. As expected, due to Narragansett Bay, estuarine waters predominate and represent 82 percent of the total. Lakes and reservoirs accounted for about 18 percent, while freshwater rivers only made up 0.5 percent of the state's non-marine waters.

#### County Totals

Acreage of wetlands and deepwater habitats for each county are presented in detail on Tables 5 and 6, respec-

tively. Table 7 shows the percentage of each county covered by wetlands. Washington County possesses 30,815 acres or 47 percent of the state's wetlands, while Providence County has 15,927 acres of wetland or nearly 25 percent of the state total. Newport and Kent Counties have nearly equal amounts of wetland and their combined total represented another 25 percent. Bristol County has 2,029 acres or only three percent of the state's wetlands.

Marine wetlands, largely represented by intertidal beaches and rocky shores, occur only in Washington and Newport Counties, whereas estuarine and palustrine wetlands exist in all five counties. Nearly half (48 percent or 3,376 acres) of the state's estuarine wetlands are found in Washington County, while 27 percent (or 1,868 acres) occur in Newport County. Washington County also possesses 26,910 acres of palustrine wetlands which account for 47 percent of the state's freshwater wetlands. Providence County has 15,838 acres of palustrine wetlands or 28 percent of the state total. Lacustrine wetlands are rather limited, and were mapped only in Washington and Providence Counties.

Newport County has the greatest acreage of non-marine deepwater habitats, with 50,137 acres inventoried. This

**Table 6.** Deepwater habitat acreage summaries for Rhode Island, excluding marine waters.

System	Bristol County	Kent County	Newport County	Providence County	Washington County	State Total
Estuarine	9,687	6,668	48,254	3,560	18,740	86,909
Riverine	—	71	—	312	143	526
Lacustrine	160	2,216	1,883	10,075	4,488	18,822
Totals	9,847	8,955	50,137	13,947	23,371	106,257

figure accounts for 47 percent of the state's non-marine waters. Washington County possesses 23,371 acres or 22 percent of the state total.

## Summary

The NWI Project has completed an inventory of Rhode Island's wetlands using aerial photo interpretation methods. Detailed wetland maps and acreage summaries have been produced for the entire state. Roughly 65,000 acres of wetland and 106,000 acres of deepwater habitat were inventoried in Rhode Island. Thus, about 10 percent of the state is represented by wetland.

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**Table 7.** Percentage of each county covered by wetland. County acreages were obtained from U.S.D.A. soil survey for Rhode Island (1981).

County	County Acreage	Wetland Acreage	% of County Covered by Wetland
Bristol	16,090	1,836	11.4
Kent	111,410	8,374	7.5
Newport	67,740	8,009	11.8
Providence	268,130	16,120	6.0
Washington	213,750	30,815	14.4

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## CHAPTER 4.

### Wetland Formation and Hydrology

#### Introduction

Wetlands are usually found in depressions, along the shores of waterbodies such as lakes, rivers, coastal ponds, and estuaries, and at the toes of slopes. Some wetlands occur on the slopes themselves where they are associated with groundwater seepage (springs) or with surface water drainageways. Historical events and present hydrologic conditions have acted in concert to create and maintain a diversity of wetlands in Rhode Island. Human activities have recently become more important to wetland formation and hydrology. The following sections address general differences between Rhode Island's inland and coastal wetlands in terms of their formation and hydrology. The discussion is not intended to be comprehensive, but a generalized overview of wetland formation and hydrology. References have been cited for more detailed descriptions.

#### Wetland Formation

Many events have led to the creation of wetlands throughout the state, but none are more significant than glaciation, a geological event that took place thousands of years ago. Current events, such as rising sea level and erosion and accretion processes, continue to build, shape, and even destroy wetlands. Construction of ponds, impoundments, and reservoirs also may create wetlands, but often involve wetland destruction as well.

#### Inland Wetland Formation

Glaciation was the most important factor in the creation of Rhode Island's inland wetlands. From about one billion years ago to about 10–12,000 years ago, the state was buried under several thousand feet of glacial ice (Quinn 1973). During this "ice age," roughly one-third of the world's land area was covered by ice compared to only ten percent of today's surface (Wolfe 1977). During the last glaciation (Wisconsinan), glacial ice advanced as far south as northern New Jersey and northeastern Pennsylvania in the East and to southern Illinois in the Midwest (Shepps 1978).

As the glacier moved south, the landscape was scoured and in most areas the soil was carried away by the moving ice, leaving mostly fresh bedrock behind. In some areas, depressions were scraped out of the bedrock. When the

glacier stopped moving south, the leading edge of the ice melted, depositing boulders, sand, and clay (glacial till) and forming an irregular ridge called an "end moraine." The outermost end moraine in Rhode Island is located offshore on Block Island; it extends west to the middle of Long Island and east to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket (Quinn 1973).

When the climate warmed and melting increased about 18,000 years ago, the glacier retreated northward to a point just north of Rhode Island's South Shore. There it stopped for several thousand years, depositing glacially held materials and forming another end moraine, the Charlestown Moraine. This ridge promoted wetland formation by blocking drainages from the north and causing the newly formed Pawcatuck River to flow west instead of south. When the glacier finally retreated from Rhode Island, drainage patterns throughout the state were modified greatly. Glacial drift was dumped across the landscape—till at higher elevations and stratified drift in lowlands (F. Golet, pers. comm.). Other areas were deeply eroded. When this drift blocked outlets of streams, wetlands and waterbodies were created. As the glacier melted, ice blocks of assorted sizes were left in many places on the outwash plains in front of the melting glacier where they were buried by outwash or surrounded by it. Ice blocks were also deposited in till areas and on the end moraine itself. Glacial ice blocks gradually melted and many formed kettle lakes and ponds (Figure 7). Many of these waterbodies gradually filled with sediment from inflowing streams. Eventually, aquatic vegetation colonized the shallow waters and began to flourish, building peat deposits, and increasing the level of the wetland surface, so that other wetland plants could become established. Filling of glacial lakes and ponds still continues (Figure 8), yet some isolated ones on the Charlestown moraine are still deep—greater than 50 feet (F. Golet, pers. comm.). Many of Rhode Island's wetlands were formed in these types of glacial depressions. Dansereau and Segadas-Vianna (1952) have described the development of eastern North American bogs in these situations (Figure 9).

Wetlands also developed in compact glacial till soils with a confining layer (hardpan or fragipan) close to the surface. In certain soils (e.g., Ridgebury and Stissing series) slowly permeable layers form due to the downward migration (translocation) of silts, clays, and iron oxides and their accumulation in a distinct zone or to

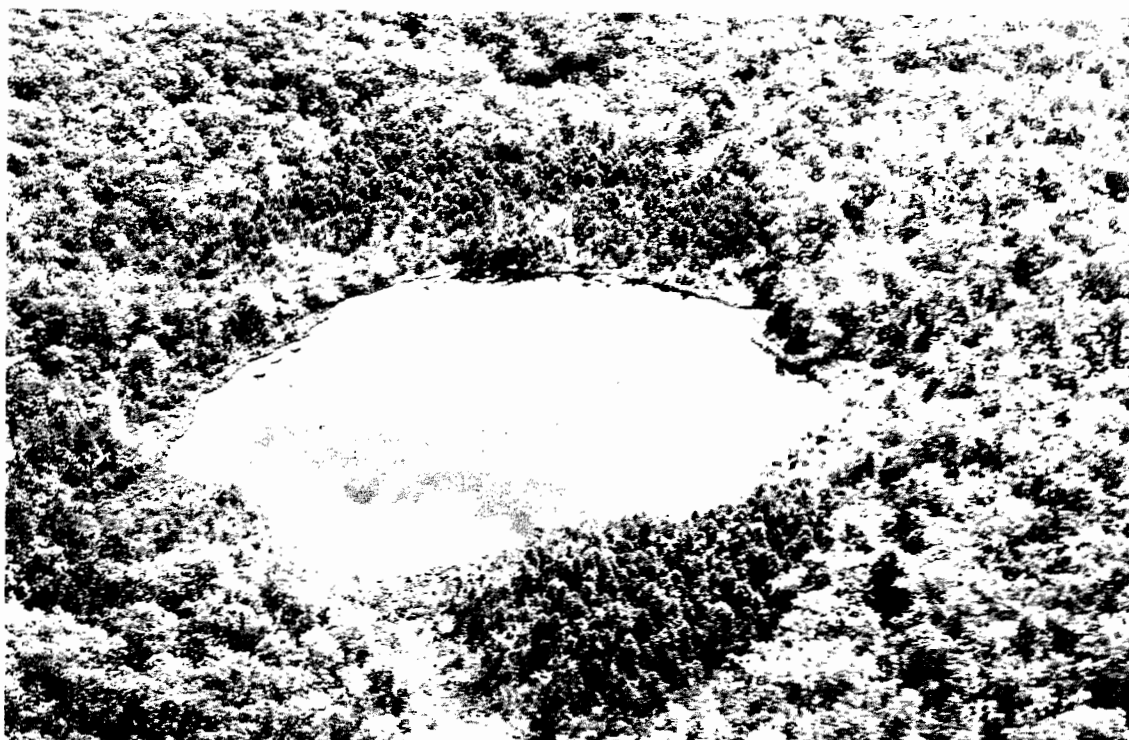


**Figure 7.** Many inland wetlands have developed in kettles, while coastal wetlands have formed behind barrier beaches, along tidal rivers and in sheltered coves. The region shown is in Washington County (Point Judith - lower right, Wakefield/Pettaquamscutt Cove - upper right, Worden Pond - upper left, Trustom and Card Ponds - lower left). Area A shows kettle ponds in South Kingston; Area B - coastal marshes and tidal flats in Galilee and Jerusalem; Area C - coastal marsh along Pettaquamscutt River.

compaction of till by past glaciers. When close to the surface (e.g., within 20 inches) these layers can create “perched” water tables that promote the establishment of wetland plants and the formation of wetlands. These soils occur in depressions, but also are found on gentle slopes in glacial till areas.

Wetlands have formed on floodplains along certain large streams in the state. In mature floodplains, wetlands are found on the inner floodplain terrace behind the natural levees. The levees are composed of coarser materials

and are better drained than the inner floodplain that is composed of silts and clays and has generally poor drainage. Early stages of floodplain development are characterized by extensive marshes bordering streams, while later stages developing as sedimentation increases wetland surface elevations are usually represented by shrub and forested wetlands (Nichols 1915). Some floodplain marshes and meadows may persist due to extended flooding periods that preclude the establishment of tree species or to periodic mowing or grazing.



**Figure 8.** Aerial view of Hannah Clarkin Pond (a kettle pond) in Charlestown. Note the floating aquatic beds and Atlantic white cedar stands along the water's edge.

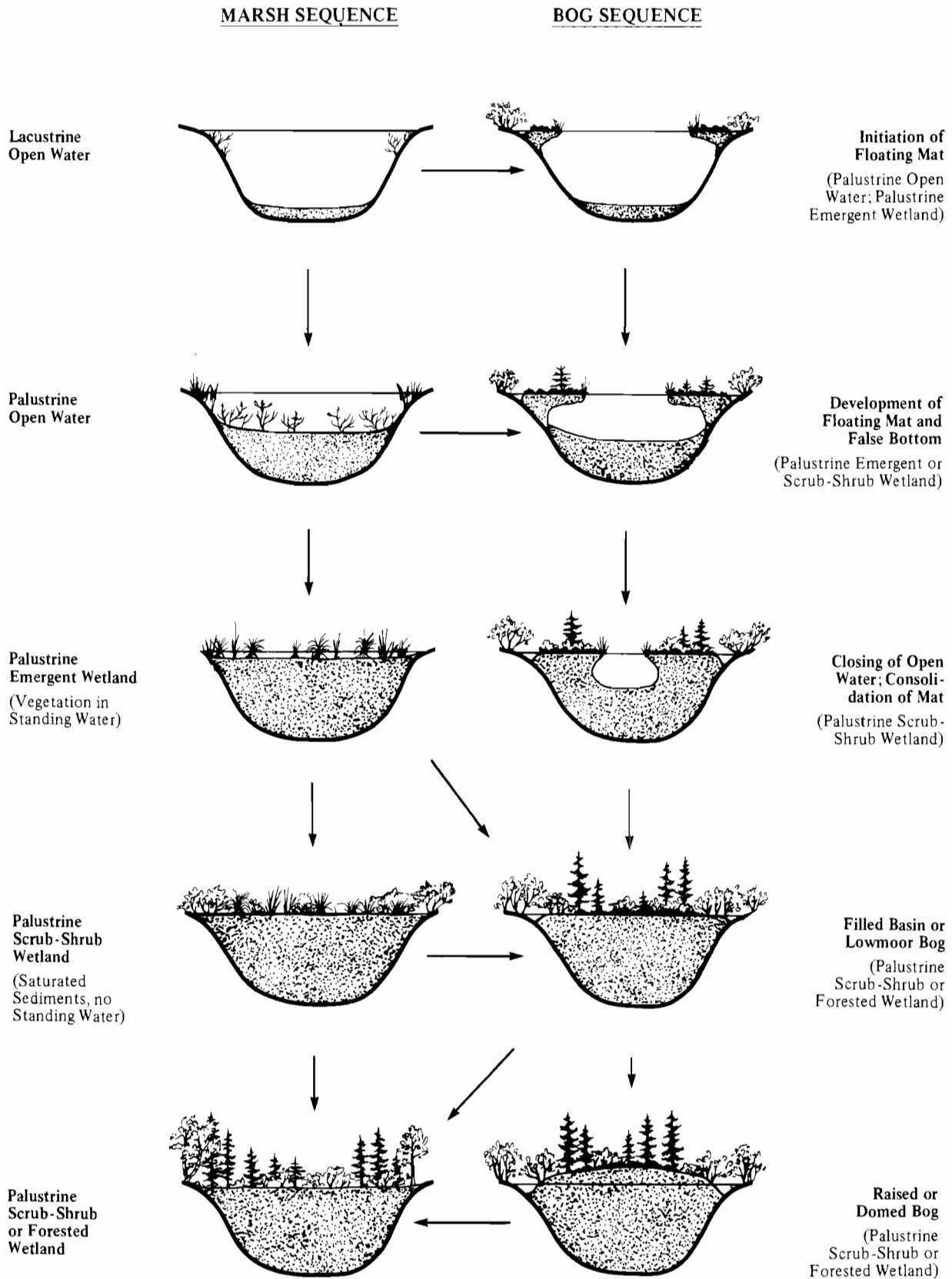
Historically, the activities of beaver were instrumental in creating wetlands. Through their construction of dams, beaver blocked drainages, causing water levels to rise and flood adjacent uplands. Flooding of uplands killed the existing vegetation and allowed wetland plants to become established. Although extirpated from the state due to fur trapping in colonial times, beaver populations are now increasing, especially in the Moosup River and Pawcatuck systems in western and southern Rhode Island.

Human activities have become increasingly important in wetland creation. Construction of farm ponds, sedimentation/detention ponds, recreational ponds and lakes, and reservoirs may create vegetated wetlands to some extent, although natural wetlands may be altered or destroyed by these projects. Farm ponds, for example, may become overgrown with wetland vegetation including aquatic plants and emergent, herbaceous plants. Shrub and forested wetlands could eventually become established in manmade basins. Wetland vegetation may also develop along the shorelines of the larger waterbodies. Unfortunately, reservoirs are usually subjected to drastic drawdowns of water levels during the summer leaving exposed, nonvegetated shores which are unsuitable for establishment of a viable wetland plant community. More stable water levels would, however, promote wetland formation along shorelines. Wetlands have been unintentionally created in some areas by highways that directly

block former drainageways or that have undersized culverts causing a local rise in water levels. In other cases, wetlands may be intentionally created to mitigate unavoidable losses of natural wetlands by various construction projects.

### Coastal Wetland Formation

Coastal wetlands have also been affected by glaciation, but in a much different way than their inland counterparts. During the "ice age," much of the world's ocean waters were stored in the form of glacial ice. At that time, sea level was as much as 425 feet lower than present levels (Wolfe 1977). As the glaciers melted (deglaciation), water was released back into the oceans, thereby raising sea levels. As sea level rose, barrier islands migrated landward and river valleys were submerged. Coastal marshes which were behind these barrier islands were submerged along with other low-lying areas, but other coastal wetlands eventually reformed behind the barrier beaches when they finally stabilized. Evidence of submergence of low-lying areas may be found in salt marshes where buried Atlantic white cedar stumps may be present, e.g., Hundred Acre Cove in Barrington (F. Golet, pers. comm.). Rising sea level has transformed former nontidal freshwater wetlands and uplands into coastal marshes. Bloom and Ellis (1965) reported on the occurrence of salt marshes over former



**Figure 9.** Marsh and bog successional patterns in kettle depressions (adapted from Dansereau and Segadas-Vianna 1952)

uplands in Connecticut. Narragansett Bay is an excellent example of a “drowned” river valley. Coastal wetlands have formed in various coves or protected embayments along the Bay.

Today, sea level continues to rise along the U.S. coastline at average rates between four and ten inches per century, with local variations (Hicks, *et al.* 1983). The “greenhouse effect” and projected global warming could lead to further melting of polar ice in Greenland and the Antarctic and of mountain glaciers; this coupled with coastal subsidence could raise sea levels 3.0 to 5.7 feet (3.7 feet most likely) by the year 2100 (Titus and Seidel 1986). Such an increase would have profound effects on Rhode Island’s coastal wetlands as well as other low-lying areas in the coastal zone.

In Rhode Island, coastal marshes typically, developed along tidal rivers, estuarine embayments (e.g., coves), and coastal ponds (Figure 7). Along Narragansett Bay and various coastal rivers, such as the Pettaquamscutt and Warren Rivers, coastal wetlands formed in areas of sedimentation. Sediments are transported by rivers and streams flowing seaward as well as by inflowing ocean currents. When the river meets the sea, sediments begin to settle out of suspension forming deltas and bars at the river’s mouth and intertidal flats in adjacent protected areas. Sedimentation also takes place further upstream when tidal currents slow, as during slack water periods. The rate and extent of sedimentation depends on the original size and age of the estuary, present erosion rate upstream, and deposition by the river and marine tides and currents (Reid 1961). Orson and others (1987) described the formation of tidal marshes in a drowned river valley in the Pataguanset River of eastern Connecticut. The salt marsh began forming about 3,500 years ago. Halophytic (salt-tolerant) plants replaced freshwater marsh plants as salinity increased due to rising sea level (coastal submergence) and replaced upland vegetation as low-lying uplands were submerged by estuarine waters.

Coastal wetlands are common in the intertidal zone along salt and brackish “ponds” which occur behind the barrier beaches along Rhode Island’s South Shore. Redfield (1972) has described development of a New England salt marsh behind a developing barrier beach. Initially, mud and silt are deposited to form tidal flats in shallow areas. As elevations exceed mean sea level, smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) becomes established, forming the low or regularly flooded marsh. The presence of this vegetation further slows the velocity of flooding waters, causing more sedimentation. Sediments continue to build up to a level where erosion and deposition are in relative equilibrium. The high or irregularly flooded salt marsh begins to form where the substrate builds up above the mean high water mark.

Salt marshes are still forming along the Rhode Island coast. In coastal ponds, new sediments come mainly from stormwater washover during hurricanes and other severe storms and from sea water moving through breachways, with very little input from adjacent uplands (Lee 1980; Dillon 1970; Conover 1961). These processes form extensive shoals and sand bars in coastal ponds. Coastal marshes may, in time, develop in these areas as can be witnessed inside the Charlestown Breachway (F. Golet, pers. comm.).

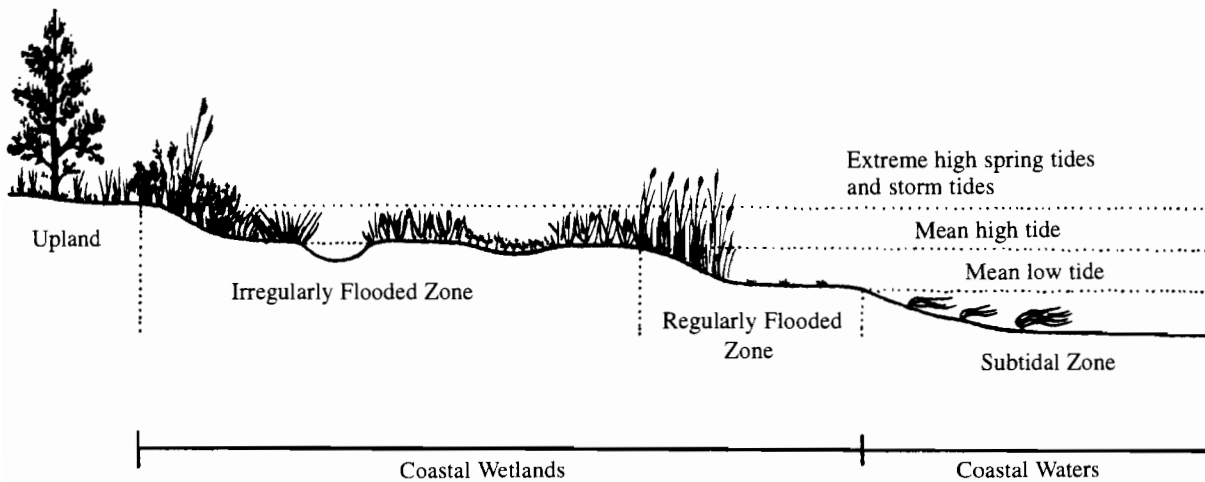
## Wetland Hydrology

The presence of water from stream or lake flooding, surface water runoff, ground-water discharge, or tides is the driving force creating and maintaining wetlands. Hydrology determines the nature of the soils and the types of plants and animals living in wetlands. An accurate assessment of hydrology unfortunately requires extensive knowledge of the frequency and duration of flooding, water table fluctuations and ground-water relationships. This information can only be gained through intensive and long-term studies. There are, however, ways to recognize broad differences in hydrology or water regime. At certain times of the year, such as during spring floods or high tides in coastal areas, hydrology is apparent. Yet, for most of the year, such obvious evidence is lacking in many wetlands. At these times, less conspicuous signs of flooding may be observed, including (1) water marks on vegetation, (2) water-transported debris on plants or collected around their bases, and (3) water-stained leaves on the ground (Tiner 1988). These and other signs, such as wetland vegetation, help us recognize hydrologic differences between wetlands.

The Service’s wetland classification system (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979) includes water regime modifiers to describe hydrologic characteristics. Two groups of water regimes are identified: (1) tidal and (2) nontidal. Tidal water regimes are driven by oceanic tides, while nontidal regimes are largely influenced by surface water runoff and ground-water discharge.

### Tidal Wetland Hydrology

In coastal areas, ocean-driven tides are the dominant hydrologic feature of wetlands. Along the Atlantic coast, tides are semidiurnal and symmetrical with a period of 12 hours and 25 minutes. In other words, there are roughly two high tides and two low tides each day. Since the tides are largely controlled by the position of the moon relative to the sun, the highest and lowest tides (i.e., “spring tides”) usually occur during full and new moons. Coastal storms can also cause extreme high and low tides. Strong winds over a prolonged period have a great impact on the



**Figure 10.** Hydrology of coastal wetlands showing different zones of flooding. The regularly flooded zone is flooded at least once daily by the tides, while the irregularly flooded zone is flooded less often. (Source: Tiner 1987)

normal tidal range in large coastal bays. Table 8 shows examples of varying tidal ranges along the Rhode Island coast.

In coastal wetlands, differences in hydrology (tidal flooding) create two readily identifiable zones: (1) regularly flooded zone and (2) irregularly flooded zone (Figure 10). The regularly flooded zone is alternately flooded and exposed at least once daily by the tides. It includes both the “low marsh” and intertidal mud and sand flats. Above the regularly flooded zone, the marsh is less frequently flooded by the tides (less than once a day). This irregularly flooded zone, or “high marsh”, is exposed to the air for variable periods; it is usually flooded only for brief periods. Most of the high marsh is flooded during spring tides. The upper margins of the high marsh may be flooded, however, only during storm tides which are more frequent in winter. Estuarine plants have adapted to these differences in hydrology (Adams 1963; Nixon 1982) and certain plants are good indicators of different water regimes (Table 9). The tall form of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) has been shown to be a reliable indicator of the landward extent of mean high tide (Kennard, *et al.* 1983).

**Nontidal Wetland Hydrology**

Beyond the influence of the tides, two hydrologic forces regulate water levels or soil saturation in wetlands: (1) surface water runoff and (2) ground-water discharge. Wind driven-waves across lakes cause flooding of shoreline wetlands. Surface water runs off from the land and either collects in depressional wetlands or enters rivers and lakes after snowmelt or rainfall periods and may overflow into adjacent floodplains (Figure 11). Ground water discharges into depressional wetlands when directly connected to the water table or into sloping wet-

**Table 8.** Tidal ranges of mean and spring tides and mean tide level at various locations in Rhode Island (U.S. Department of Commerce 1988).

Location	Mean Tide Range (ft)	Spring Tide Range (ft)	Mean Tide Level (ft)
Narragansett Bay at Sakonnet	3.1	3.9	1.7
at Newport	3.5	4.4	1.9
at Bristol Ferry	4.1	5.1	2.2
at Providence	4.5	5.6	2.4
at Wickford	3.8	4.7	2.0
Seekonk River at Pawtucket	4.6	5.8	2.5
Great Salt Pond at Block Island	2.6	3.2	1.4
Block Island Sound at Watch Hill Point	2.6	3.2	1.4
Pawcatuck River at Westerly	2.7	3.2	1.5

**Table 9.** Examples of plant indicators of tidal water regimes for Rhode Island’s estuarine wetlands. These plants are generally good indicators of the regimes.

Water Regime	Indicator Plants
Regularly Flooded	Smooth Cordgrass (tall form) ( <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> ) Rockweeds ( <i>Fucus</i> spp. and <i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i> )
Irregularly Flooded	Salt Hay Grass ( <i>Spartina patens</i> ) Spike Grass ( <i>Distichlis spicata</i> ) Black Grass ( <i>Juncus gerardii</i> ) Smooth Cordgrass (short form) ( <i>S. alterniflora</i> ) Switchgrass ( <i>Panicum virgatum</i> ) Common Reed ( <i>Phragmites australis</i> )



lands in "seepage" areas (Figure 12). An individual wetland may exist due to surface water runoff or groundwater discharge or both. The role of hydrology in maintaining freshwater wetlands is discussed by Gosselink and Turner (1978).

Freshwater rivers and streams usually experience greatest flooding in winter and early spring, with maximum flooding usually occurring in March and April. Major flooding is frequently associated with frozen soil, snowmelt, and/or spring rains. Flooding may result from overflow of backwater streams rather than from overflow of the mainstem river (Buchholz 1981). Backwater stream levees are lower in elevation and are easily breached by rising waters. Minor drainage within the floodplain may, therefore, significantly affect flooding and drainage patterns.

Water tables fluctuate markedly during the year in many areas (Figure 13). From winter to mid-spring or early summer, the water table is at or near the surface in many wetlands. During this time, water may pond or flood the wetland surface for variable periods. In May or June, the water table may begin to drop, usually reaching its low point between late August and October. Longer days, increasing air temperatures, increasing evapotranspiration, and other factors are responsible for the consistent lowering of the water table from spring through summer.

Lowry (1984) reported on water regimes of 12 forested

wetlands in southern Rhode Island: six red maple swamps and six Atlantic white cedar swamps. On average, the cedar swamps were flooded 49 percent of the growing season, while the red maple swamps were flooded only 27 percent of this time. Water levels in both types of swamps were lowest in September and usually attained their highest levels by late December. This pattern is consistent with the water table fluctuations observed by Lyford (1964) and shown in Figure 13 (year 1). Other New England studies of nontidal wetland hydrology include Anderson and others (1980), Swift and others (1984), Motts and O'Brien (1981), O'Brien (1977), Holzer (1973), and Hall and others (1972).

Standing water may be present in depressional, stream-side, or lakefront wetlands for variable periods during the growing season. When flooding or ponding is brief (usually two weeks or less), the wetland is considered temporarily flooded. During the summer, the water table may drop to three feet or more below the surface in these wetlands. This situation is prevalent along floodplains. Flooding for longer periods is described by three common water regimes: (1) seasonally flooded, (2) semipermanently flooded, and (3) permanently flooded (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979). A seasonally flooded wetland typically has standing water visible for more than one month during the growing season, but usually by late summer, such water is absent. When not flooded, however, the water table remains within 1.5 feet of the surface for significant periods in many seasonally flooded wetlands. By contrast,

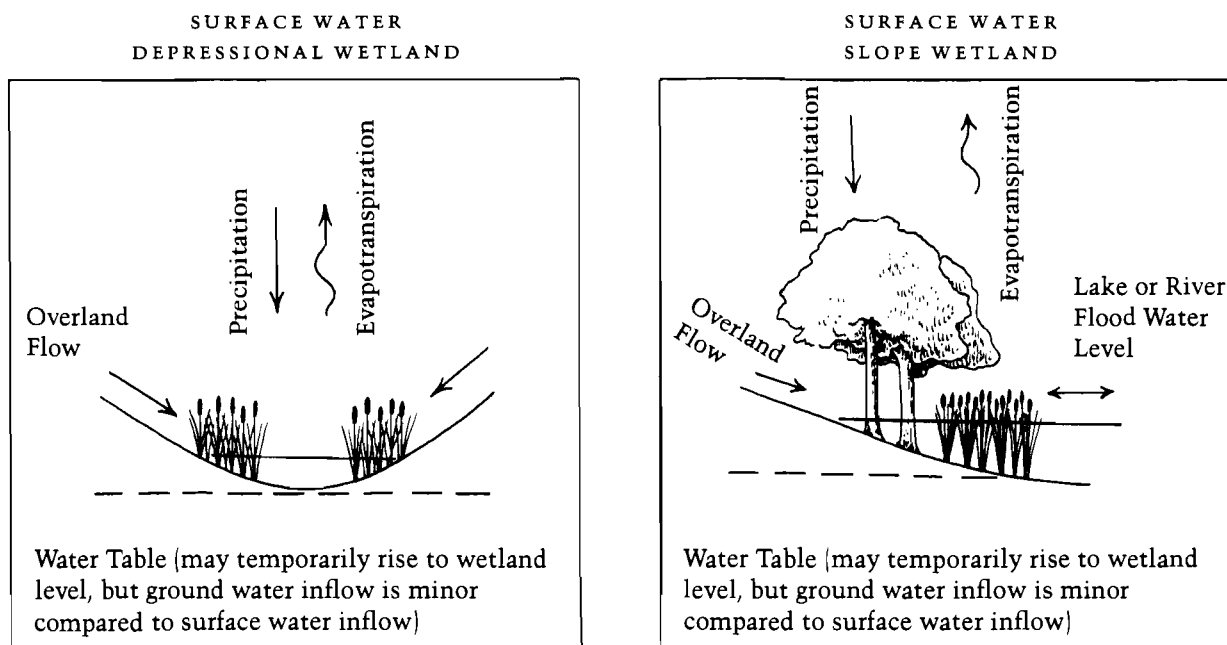


Figure 11. Hydrology of surface water wetlands. (Source: redrawn from Novitski 1982)

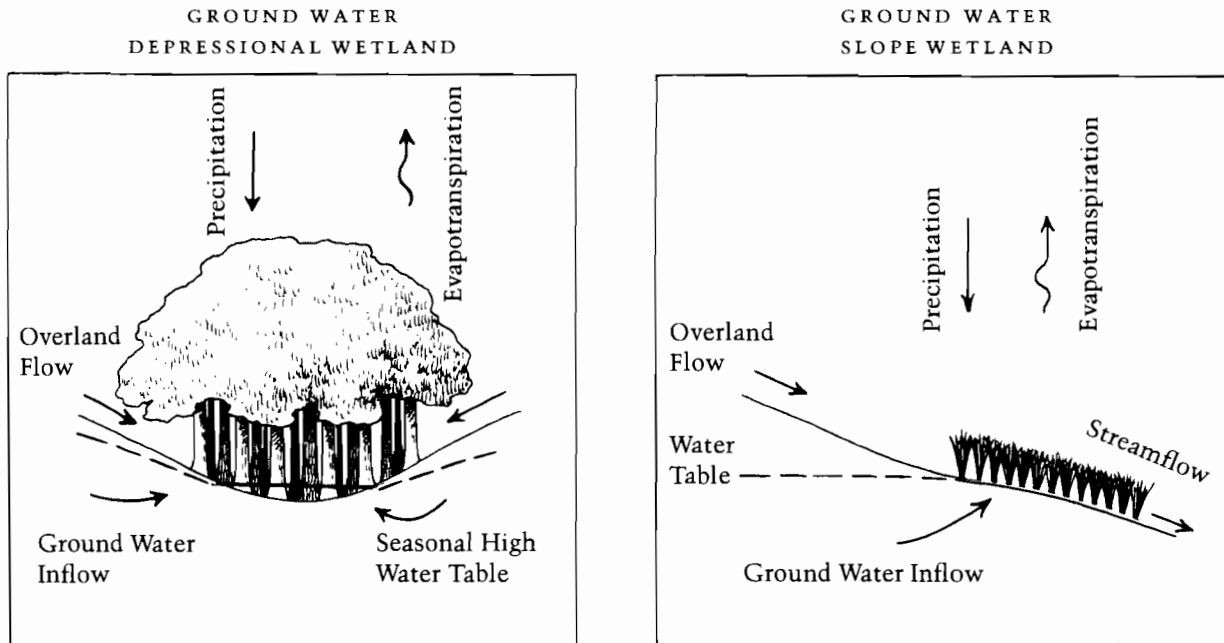


Figure 12. Hydrology of ground-water wetlands. (Source: redrawn from Novitski 1982)

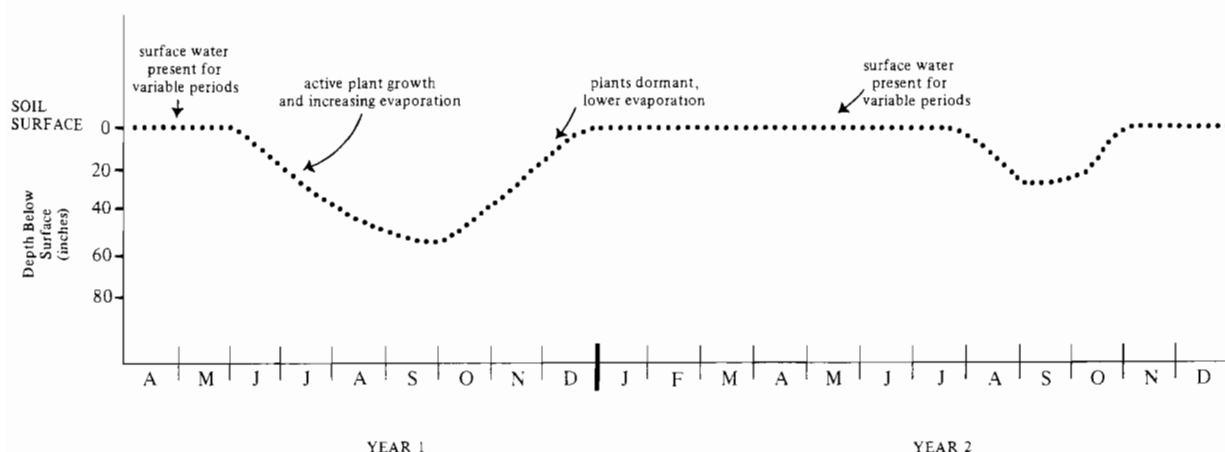
a semipermanently flooded wetlands remain flooded throughout the growing season in most years. Only during dry periods does the surface of these wetlands become exposed to air. Even then, the water table lies at or very near the surface. The wettest wetlands are permanently flooded. These areas include open water bodies where depth is less than 6.6 feet, e.g., ponds and shallow portions of lakes, rivers and streams.

Some rarely flooded wetlands are almost entirely influenced by ground-water discharge or surface water runoff. Many of these wetlands occur on considerable slopes in association with springs (i.e., points of active ground-water discharge), which are commonly called "seeps". Their soils are saturated to the surface for much of the growing season and the water regime is, therefore, classified as saturated. Some seepage areas are more seasonal in nature and many "wet meadows" may be saturated only during the early part of the growing season. Other saturated wetlands include "bogs". In these situations, the soil is virtually continuously saturated.

For Rhode Island, the most common nontidal water regimes, listed by frequency of occurrence are: (1) seasonally flooded, (2) permanently flooded, (3) saturated, and (4) semipermanently flooded. Common indicator plants of nontidal water regimes are presented in Table 10. Hydrologic conditions, e.g., water table fluctuation, flooding, and soil saturation, for each of Rhode Island's

Table 10. Examples of plant indicators of nontidal water regimes for Rhode Island's wetlands.

Water Regime	Indicator Plants
Permanently Flooded	White Water Lily ( <i>Nymphaea odorata</i> ) Pondweeds ( <i>Potamogeton</i> spp.) Water Shield ( <i>Brasenia schreberi</i> ) Spatterdock ( <i>Nuphar luteum</i> )
Semipermanently Flooded	Buttonbush ( <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> ) Burreeds ( <i>Sparganium</i> spp.) Bayonet Rush ( <i>Juncus militaris</i> ) Pickerelweed ( <i>Pontederia cordata</i> )
Seasonally Flooded	Broad-leaved Cattail ( <i>Typha latifolia</i> ) Tussock Sedge ( <i>Carex stricta</i> ) Turk's-cap Lily ( <i>Lilium canadense michiganense</i> ) Marsh Fern ( <i>Thelypteris thelypteroides</i> ) Arrow-leaved Tearthumb ( <i>Polygonum sagittatum</i> ) Highbush Blueberry ( <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> ) Swamp Rose ( <i>Rosa palustris</i> ) Alders ( <i>Alnus</i> spp.) Common Elderberry ( <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> ) Atlantic White Cedar ( <i>Chamaecyparis thoides</i> )
Saturated	Pitcher Plant ( <i>Sarracenia purpurea</i> ) White Beak-rush ( <i>Rhynchospora alba</i> ) Beaked Sedge ( <i>Carex rostrata</i> ) Leatherleaf ( <i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i> )



**Figure 13.** Water table fluctuations in a nontidal wetland (adapted from data by Lyford 1964). In general, the water table is at or near the surface through the winter and spring, drops markedly in summer, and begins to rise in the fall. As shown, the water table fluctuates seasonally and annually.

hydric soils are generally discussed in the following chapter.

For more detailed information on wetland hydrology,

the reader is referred to the following sources. Some of the most current information on wetland hydrology is found in the recently published proceedings of a national symposium on this topic (Kusler and Brooks 1988).

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## CHAPTER 5.

# Hydric Soils of Rhode Island

### Introduction

The predominance of undrained hydric soil is a key attribute for identifying wetlands (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979). Hydric soils naturally develop in wet depressions, on floodplains, on seepage slopes, and along the margins of coastal and inland waters. Knowledge of hydric soils is particularly useful in distinguishing the drier wetlands from uplands, where the more typical wetland plants are less common or absent. This chapter focuses on the characteristics, distribution and extent of Rhode Island's hydric soils. Tiner and Veneman (1987) describe characteristics and field recognition of New England's hydric soils.

### Definition of Hydric Soil

Hydric soils have been defined by the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service (1987) as follows: "A hydric soil is a soil that is saturated, flooded or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part." This definition includes soils that are saturated with water at or near the soil surface and virtually lacking free oxygen for a significant period of the growing season and soils that are ponded or frequently flooded for long periods during the growing season. Table 11 lists criteria for hydric soils.

Soils that were formerly wet, but are now completely drained, are not considered hydric soils or wetlands, according to the Service's wetland classification system (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979). These soils must be checked in the field to verify that drainage measures will remain functional under normal or design conditions. Where failure of a drainage system results, such soils can revert to hydric conditions. This condition must be determined on a site-specific basis. Soils that were not naturally wet, but are now subject to periodic flooding or soil saturation for specific management purposes (e.g., waterfowl impoundments) or flooded by accident (e.g., highway-created impoundments) are considered hydric soils (see criteria 3 and 4 in Table 11). Hydrophytes are usually present in these created wetlands. Better-drained soils that are frequently flooded for short intervals (usually less than one week) during the growing season, are not considered hydric soils.

### Major Categories of Hydric Soils

Hydric soils are separated into two major categories on the basis of soil composition: (1) organic soils (histosols) and (2) mineral soils. In general, soils having 20 percent or more organic material by weight in the upper 16 inches are considered organic soils, while soils with less organic content are mineral soils. For a technical definition, the reader is referred to *Soil Taxonomy* (Soil Survey Staff 1975).

Accumulation of organic matter results from prolonged anaerobic soil conditions associated with long periods of flooding and/or soil saturation during the growing season. These saturated conditions impede aerobic decomposition (or oxidation) of the bulk organic materials, such as leaves, stems and roots, and encourage their accumulation as peat or muck over time. Consequently, most or-

**Table 11.** Criteria for hydric soils (U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service 1987).

#### Criteria for Hydric Soils

1. All Histosols (Organic soils) except Folists, or
2. Soils (Mineral soils) in Aquic suborders, Aquic subgroups, Allbolls suborder, Salorthids great groups, or Pell great groups of Vertisols that are:
  - a. somewhat poorly drained and have water table less than 0.5 feet from the surface for a significant period (usually a week or more) during the growing season, or
  - b. poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:
    - (1) water table at less than 1.0 feet from the surface for a significant period (usually a week or more) during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 inches/hour in all layers within 20 inches, or
    - (2) water table at less than 1.5 feet from the surface for a significant period (usually a week or more) during the growing season if permeability is less than 6.0 inches/hour in any layer within 20 inches, or
3. Soils (Mineral soils) that are ponded for long duration (more than 7 days) or very long duration (more than 1 month) during the growing season, or
4. Soils (Mineral soils) that are frequently flooded for long duration (more than 7 days) or very long duration (more than 1 month) during the growing season.

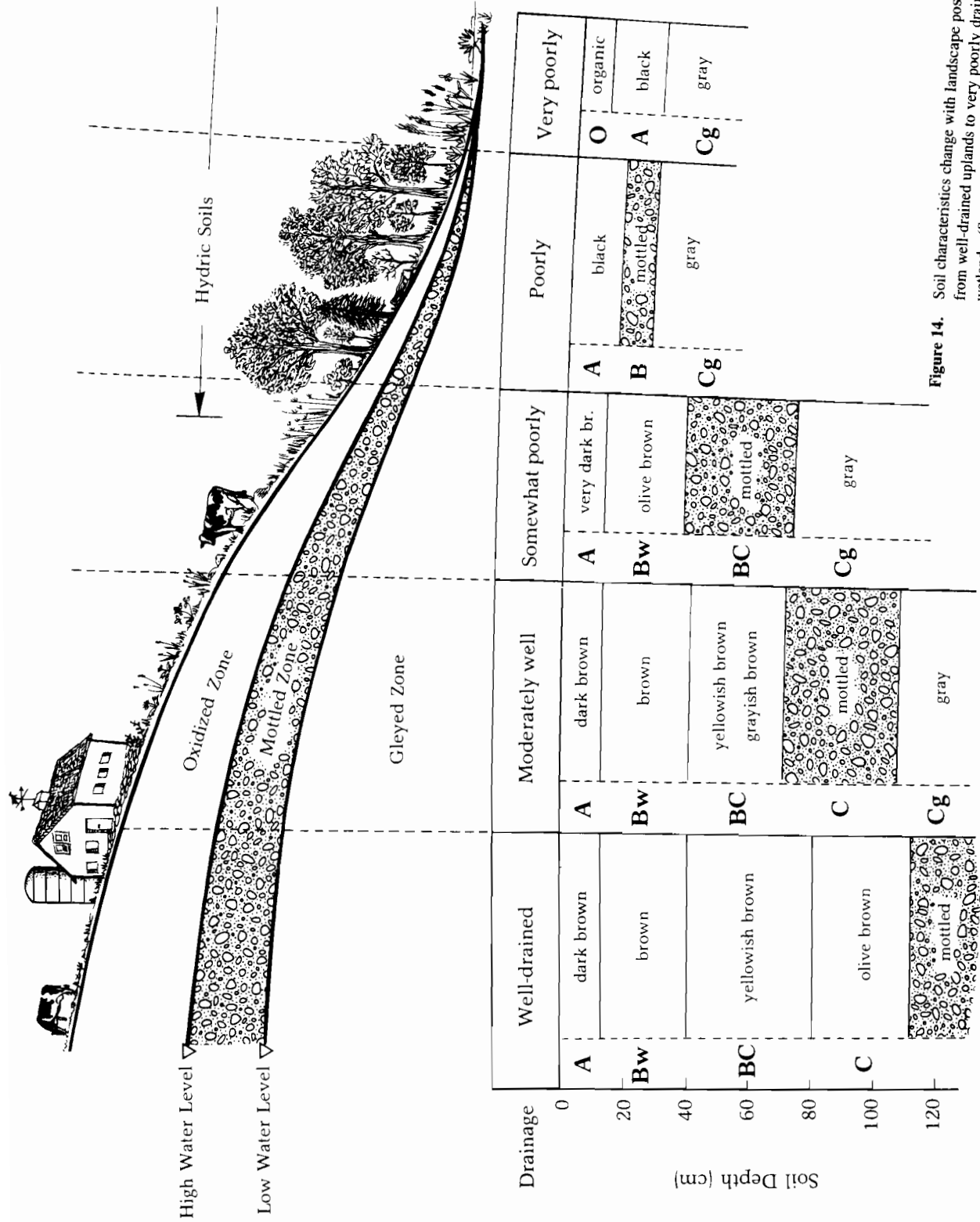


Figure 14. Soil characteristics change with landscape position from well-drained uplands to very poorly drained wetlands. (Source: Tiner and Veneman 1989)

tivity of certain soil microorganisms. These microorganisms reduce iron when the soil environment is anaerobic, that is, when virtually no free oxygen is present, and when the soil contains organic matter. If the soil conditions are such that free oxygen is present, organic matter is absent, or temperatures are too low (below 41°F or 5°C) to sustain microbial activity, gleization will not proceed and mottles will not form, even though the soil may be saturated for prolonged periods of time (Diers and Anderson 1984).

In Rhode Island, one well-drained soil may appear to be a hydric soil due to dark surface and subsurface layers. The Newport series (Typic Fragiochrepts) may have a black to dark gray or dark brown surface layer with a dark gray to dark grayish brown or olive gray subsoil (to about 19 inches deep). These dark grayish colors are *not* associated with a reducing (anaerobic) environment, but result from the soil parent materials of dark sandstone, conglomerate, argillite, and phyllite.

### National List of Hydric Soils

To help the Service clarify its wetland definition, the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) agreed to develop a list of hydric soils. Work on the list began in the late 1970's and the list underwent a few revisions prior to its most recent printing in 1987. The national hydric soils list is reviewed annually and updated and republished as needed. This list summarizes in tabular form the characteristics of each designated hydric soil. State lists of hydric soils have been prepared from the national list and are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory Project.

### Rhode Island's Hydric Soils

In Rhode Island, 14 soil series have been identified as hydric soils. These series are very poorly drained or poorly drained soils. Table 13 lists these soils along with selected characteristics. Examples of Rhode Island's hydric soils and non-hydric soils are shown in Plates 1–6.

### County Acreage of Hydric Soils

Recent SCS soil mapping in Rhode Island identified 112,690 acres of "potential" hydric soils. This represents about 17 percent of the state's land surface area. In Rhode Island, somewhat poorly drained soils were not separated from the poorly drained soils in soil mapping, therefore, the total acreage of "potential" hydric soils is actually higher than the true acreage of hydric soils associated

with wetlands in the state (E. Stuart, pers. comm.). Table 14 outlines acreages of potential hydric soils for each county based on SCS soil mapping (Rector 1981).

## Hydric Soil Descriptions

This subsection briefly describes key features of each hydric soil associated with Rhode Island's wetlands. This information was obtained from Rector (1981); for more detailed descriptions, please contact the Soil Conservation Service in West Warwick. (*Note:* The Wareham series is not included in the descriptions because it is of minor importance and was not mapped as a soil map unit during SCS's soil survey; its characteristics are, however, presented in Table 13, since it does occur in the state.)

### Adrian Series

The Adrian series consists of very poorly drained organic soils (mucks). They are usually found in depressions and drainageways of glacial till uplands and outwash plains. This soil is characterized by a layer of shallow, black muck about 20 inches thick (range: 16 to 50 inches). The water table is at or near the surface for most of the year, usually from November through May. Flooding occurs in a few areas. Adrian muck is found in all counties, with nearly half of the state's acreage in Washington County.

### Carlisle Series

Carlisle soils are very poorly drained organic soils (mucks) associated with depressions in glacial till uplands and outwash plains. These soils are represented by a deep, black and dark reddish brown muck more than 51 inches thick. The water table is at or near the surface for most of the year, usually from September into June. Flooding or ponding of surface water may occur for variable periods. Carlisle muck occurs in every county, but is most common in Washington County, which possesses over 60 percent of the state's acreage of this soil.

### Ipswich Series

The Ipswich series is represented by very poorly drained organic soils (peats) associated with estuarine tidal marshes. It is characterized by a very dark brown surface peat about 11 inches thick, overlying a very dark grayish brown subsurface mucky peat about 60 inches thick. The organic layer is more than 51 inches thick. The soil is saturated with salt water and subjected to frequent tidal flooding. Although Ipswich peat occurs in Bristol, Kent, and Washington counties, over 90 percent of the state's acreage of this soil is present in Bristol County.

**Table 13.** Hydric soils of Rhode Island, including soil taxonomic names (series and soil subgroups), drainage class (VP—very poorly drained, P—poorly drained, SP—somewhat poorly drained), depth (below the soil surface), frequency and applicable period of high water table (+ denotes water level above the soil surface; +V indicates flooding at variable depths) or flooding, and hydric criteria number (see Table 11). An asterisk (\*) indicates that the series may include non-hydric members. *Note:* Some New England soils classified as poorly drained actually include somewhat poorly drained members which may be non-hydric. (Sources: Modified from Tiner and Veneman 1987; Rector 1981).

Series	Soil Subgroup	Drainage Class	High Water Table		Flooding			Hydric Criteria Number
			Depth (ft)	Period	Frequency	Duration	Period	
Adrian	Terric Medisaprists	VP	+1.0–1.0	Nov–May	None			1
Adrian, flooded	Terric Medisaprists	VP	+1.0–0.5	Nov–May	Frequent	Long	Nov–May	1,4
Carlisle	Typic Medisaprists	VP	+0.5–1.0	Sep–Jun	None			1
Carlisle, flooded	Typic Medisaprists	VP	+0.5–1.0	Sep–Jun	Frequent	Long	Nov–May	1,4
Ipswich	Typic Sulfihemists	VP	+1.0–0.0	Jan–Dec	Frequent	V. Brief	Jan–Dec	1
*Leicester	Aeric Haplaquepts	P	0.0–1.5	Nov–Mar	None			2A;2B2
Mansfield	Typic Humaquepts	VP	+1.0–0.5	Nov–Jul	None			2B2
Matunuck	Typic Sulfaquepts	VP	+1.0–0.0	Jan–Dec	Frequent	V. Brief	Jan–Dec	2B1
*Raypol	Aeric Haplaquepts	P	0.0–1.0	Nov–May	None			2A;2B2
*Ridgebury	Aeric Fragiaquepts	SP, P	0.0–1.5	Nov–May	None			2A;2B2
*Rumney	Aeric Fluvaquepts	P	+V–1.5	Nov–Jun	Frequent	Brief	Oct–May	2A;2B2
Scarboro	Histic Humaquepts	VP	+1.0–1.0	Nov–Jul	Rare			2B1
*Stissing	Aeric Fragiaquepts	P	0.0–1.5	Oct–May	None			2B2
*Walpole	Aeric Haplaquepts	P	0.0–1.0	Nov–Apr	None			2A;2B2
*Wareham	Humaqueptic	SP, P	0.0–1.5	Sep–Jun	None			2A;2B2
	Psammaquepts							
*Wareham, flooded	Humaqueptic	SP, P	+V–1.5	Sep–Jun	Occasional	Brief	Mar–May	2A;2B2;4
	Psammaquepts							
Whitman	Typic Humaquepts	VP	+1.0–0.5	Sep–Jun	None			2B2

**Table 14.** County summaries of hydric soils acreage in Rhode Island (taken from Rector 1981). *\*Note:* Soil map units that include somewhat poorly drained soils that are usually non-hydric.

Soil Map Unit Name	Bristol County	Kent County	Newport County	Providence County	Washington County	State Totals	% of State Covered
Adrian muck	45	2,540	530	2,505	5,180	10,800	1.6
Carlisle muck	5	1,790	850	3,070	9,255	14,970	2.2
Ipswich peat	525	30	—	—	20	575	0.1
Mansfield mucky silt loam	65	—	1,940	5	200	2,210	0.3
Mansfield very stony mucky silt loam	15	—	1,630	—	105	1,750	0.3
Matunuck mucky peat	390	175	1,070	115	1,805	3,555	0.5
Raypol silt loam*	15	285	15	55	2,090	2,460	0.4
Ridgebury fine sandy loam*	105	80	275	1,450	245	2,155	0.3
Ridgebury, Whitman and Leicester extremely stony fine sandy loams*	390	6,955	805	26,040	11,230	45,420	6.7
Rumney fine sandy loam*	15	415	25	750	795	2,000	0.3
Scarboro mucky sandy loam	260	1,330	585	1,720	4,075	7,970	1.2
Stissing silt loam*	395	40	6,885	35	1,485	8,840	1.3
Stissing very stony silt loam*	245	—	730	40	480	1,495	0.2
Walpole sandy loam*	475	1,805	90	3,100	3,020	8,490	3.3
Totals	2,945	15,445	15,430	38,885	39,985	112,690	16.6



### **Leicester Series**

The Leicester series consists of poorly drained mineral soils (extremely stony fine sandy loams). These soils are found in depressions and drainageways in glacial till uplands. They are characterized by a very dark grayish brown fine sandy loam surface layer about 8 inches thick and a light brownish gray and light yellowish brown mottled fine sandy loam subsurface layer about 18 inches thick over a gray, mottled gravelly sandy loam to a depth of 60 inches or more. Stones and boulders cover 10–35 percent of the mapped area of this soil. The water table is within 1.5 feet of the surface from November into March and ponding or flooding does not occur, yet the soils are saturated for long periods. Leicester soils are mapped as a complex with Ridgebury and Whitman soils; it has been mapped in each county, but is most abundant in Providence County.

### **Mansfield Series**

Mansfield soils are very poorly drained mineral soils (mucky silt loams or very stony mucky silt loams). They are associated with depressions and small drainageways of drumlins in the southeastern part of the state. These mineral soils are characterized by an 8-inch thick black mucky silt loam surface layer overlying a dark gray and olive gray silt loam subsurface layer to a depth of 60 inches or more. The water table is within 0.5 feet of the surface from November into July. Mansfield soils are most abundant in Newport County, which has 90 percent of the state's acreage of this soil, but they also occur to a limited extent in Washington, Bristol, and Providence Counties.

### **Matunuck Series**

Although called mucky peat, the Matunuck series consists of very poorly drained mineral soils having shallow organic surface layers. They are found in estuarine tidal marshes. These soils are characterized by a shallow surface layer of very dark gray mucky peat about one foot thick overlying a gray sand subsurface layer to a depth of 60 inches or more. The water table is at the surface and tidal flooding with salt water is frequent throughout the year. Matunuck mucky peat occurs in every county, with about 80 percent of the state's acreage of this soil in Washington and Newport Counties.

### **Raypol Series**

Raypol soils are poorly drained mineral soils (silt loams). They are found in depressions or terraces and outwash plains. Raypol soils are represented by a very dark grayish brown silt loam shallow surface layer about

4 inches thick and an 18-inch subsurface layer of light olive brown mottled silt loam, overlying a grayish brown and yellowish brown, mottled gravelly sand to a depth of 60 inches or more. The water table is within one foot of the surface from November into May and flooding or ponding does not take place. Raypol soils are found in all counties, but are mostly in Washington County which possesses about 85 percent of the state's acreage of this soil.

### **Ridgebury Series**

The Ridgebury series contains poorly drained mineral soils with a 10–35% areal coverage of stones and boulders (extremely stony fine sandy loams). These soils are associated with depressions and drainageways in glacial till uplands. Ridgebury soils are characterized by a 4-inch thick black fine sandy loam surface layer, a 16-inch grayish brown fine sandy loam subsoil layer that is mottled in the lower portion, and a yellowish brown substratum of mottled gravelly fine sandy loam to a depth of 60 inches or more. A perched water table is within 1.5 feet from November into May. These soils were mapped as part of a soil complex with Whitman and Leicester. This complex was mapped in all counties, with more than half of the state's acreage of this type mapped in Providence County.

### **Rumney Series**

Rumney soils are poorly drained mineral soils (fine sandy loams). They are found in recent alluvium on floodplains. They are characterized by a very dark grayish brown fine sandy loam surface layer about 5 inches thick, a dark grayish brown, mottled fine sandy loam about 17 inches thick, and a gray and dark grayish brown sand substratum 60 inches or greater in thickness. The high water table is at about 0.5 feet from November into June. The soil is also subject to frequent brief floods. Rumney soils are found in every county but are most abundant in Washington and Providence Counties which contain about 77 percent of the state's acreage of this soil.

### **Scarboro Series**

Scarboro soils are very poorly drained mineral soils, with a high content of organic matter (mucky sandy loams). They are found in drainageways and depressions on terraces and outwash plains. These soils are characterized by a 6-inch thick very dark grayish brown mucky sandy loam surface layer overlying a deep substratum composed of two layers: the upper layer—a gray, mottled loamy sand and the lower layer—a light brownish gray, mottled coarse sand. In some areas, the soil may have an organic layer (mucky peat or muck) up to 16 inches thick. The water table is within a foot of the surface from

November into July and ponding with up to one foot of surface water may occur. Flooding takes place in a few areas. Scarborough soils are mapped in every county, but more than half of the state's acreage of this soil is found in Washington County.

### Stissing Series

The Stissing series consists of poorly drained mineral soils (silt loams or very stony silt loams, depending upon the extent of stones and boulders present). These soils occur in the southeastern part of the state on glacial upland hills and drumlins. They are characterized by a very dark gray silt loam surface layer about 8 inches thick overlying a 7-inch thick dark grayish brown mottled silt loam subsoil and a dark gray, mottled silt loam substratum extending to a depth of 60 inches or more. A perched water table is within 1.5 feet from October into May. Stissing soils have been mapped in each county, but nearly 75 percent of the state's acreage of this soil is found in Newport County.

### Walpole Series

Walpole soils are poorly drained mineral soils (sandy loams) associated with depressions and small drainage-ways on terraces and outwash plains. They are character-

ized by a 7-inch thick very dark brown sandy loam surface layer, a 12-inch thick light brownish gray, mottled sandy loam subsoil, and a dark yellowish brown and grayish brown, mottled gravelly sand substratum extending to a depth of 60 inches or more. The water table lies within one foot, often within 6 inches, of the surface from November into April. Walpole sandy loams occur in all counties, but are most prevalent in Providence and Washington Counties, which comprise nearly 75 percent of the state's acreage of this soil.

### Whitman Series

The Whitman series consists of very poorly drained mineral soils with a 10–35 percent areal coverage by stones and boulders (extremely stony fine sandy loams). These soils are found in drainageways and depressions in glacial till uplands. They are characterized by a 10-inch thick surface layer of black fine sandy loam overlying a gray gravelly fine sandy loam substratum that is mottled for more than 18 inches. The water table is within 0.5 feet of the surface from September into June and surface water may pond to a depth of one foot. Whitman soils are mapped as a complex with Ridgebury and Leicester soils and are found in every county, with over half of the state's acreage of this complex mapped in Providence County.

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## CHAPTER 6.

# Vegetation and Plant Communities of Rhode Island's Wetlands

### Introduction

Rhode Island's wetlands are largely colonized by plants adapted to existing hydrologic, water chemistry, and soil conditions, although some wetlands (e.g., tidal mud flats) are devoid of macrophytic plants. Most wetland definitions have relied heavily on dominant vegetation for identification and classification purposes. The presence of "hydrophytes" or wetland plants is one of the three key attributes of the Service's wetland definition (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979). Vegetation is usually the most conspicuous feature of wetlands and one that may be often readily identified in the field. In this chapter, after discussing the concept of "hydrophyte," attention will focus on the major plant communities of Rhode Island's wetlands. The Appendix contains a list of plant species that occur in Rhode Island's wetlands.

### Hydrophyte Definition and Concept

Wetland plants are technically referred to as "hydrophytes." The Service defines a "hydrophyte" as "any plant growing in water or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content" (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979). Thus, hydrophytes are not restricted to true aquatic plants growing in water (e.g., ponds, lakes, rivers, and estuaries), but also include plants morphologically and/or physiologically adapted to periodic flooding or saturated soil conditions typical of marshes, swamps, bogs, and bottomland forests. The concept of hydrophyte applies to individual plants and not to species of plants, although certain species may be represented entirely by hydrophytes, such as smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) and broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*). For example, certain individuals of white pine (*Pinus strobus*) can be considered hydrophytes since they grow in undrained hydric soils (Tiner 1988a). Wet ecotypes of many plant species undoubtedly exist. All plants growing in wetlands have adapted in one way or another for life in periodically flooded or saturated, anaerobic soils. Consequently, these individuals are considered hydrophytes.

The Service has prepared a comprehensive list of plant species that are found in the Nation's wetlands to help clarify its wetland definition (Reed 1988). A list of plant species that occur in Rhode Island's wetlands has been extracted from the national list and is included in the

Appendix of this report. This list contains 1,335 species of plants that may occur in Rhode Island's wetlands, including 74 species of aquatics, 52 species of ferns and fern allies, 121 species of grasses, 150 species of sedges, 21 species of rushes, 664 species of forbs (other herbaceous plants), 131 species of shrubs, 93 species of trees, and 28 species of vines. The Service recognizes four types of plants that occur in wetlands: (1) obligate wetland (OBL), (2) facultative wetland (FACW), (3) facultative (FAC), and (4) facultative upland (FACU). Obligate hydrophytes are those plants which nearly always (more than 99% of the time) occur in wetlands under natural conditions. The facultative types can be found in both wetlands and uplands to varying degrees. Facultative wetland plants usually occur in wetlands (from 67 percent to 99 percent of the time), while purely facultative plants show no affinity to wetlands or uplands (equally likely to occur in both habitats) and are found in wetlands with a frequency of occurrence between 34–66 percent. By contrast, facultative upland plants usually occur in uplands, but are present in wetlands between 1–33 percent of the time. When present, they are often in drier wetlands where they may dominate or at higher elevations (e.g., hummocks) in wetter areas. Table 15 shows the number of plant species in each wetland indicator status category. Examples of the four major types of wetland plants for Rhode Island are presented in Table 16. Field guides for identifying wetland plants are available (Magee 1981; Tiner 1987, 1988b).

**Table 15.** Wetland indicator status of various life forms of Rhode Island's wetland plants. Number of species in each category is listed. Plants not assigned an indicator status are listed under NI (No Indicator). *Note:* Categories FACW, FAC, and FACU include those species designated with a + and – on the list in the Appendix. (P. Reed, pers. comm.)

Life Form	OBL	FACW	FAC	FACU	NI
Aquatics	74	—	—	—	—
Ferns and Allies	8	19	13	12	—
Grasses	23	32	22	43	1
Sedges	96	33	9	12	1
Rushes	8	7	4	2	—
Forbs	235	127	107	183	12
Shrubs	22	29	35	39	6
Trees	5	24	23	38	3
Vines	—	2	10	14	2
	471	273	223	343	25

**Table 16.** Examples of four wetland plant types occurring in Rhode Island.

Hydrophyte Type	Plant Common Name	Scientific Name
Obligate	Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
	White Water Lily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>
	Smooth Cordgrass	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>
	Bluejoint	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>
	Tussock Sedge	<i>Carex stricta</i>
	Three-way Sedge	<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>
	Broad-leaved Cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>
	Water Willow	<i>Decodon verticillatus</i>
	Leatherleaf	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>
	Big Cranberry	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>
	Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>
Atlantic White Cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	
Facultative Wetland	Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>
	Salt Hay Grass	<i>Spartina patens</i>
	Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
	Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>
	Reed Canary Grass	<i>Phalaris arundinaceum</i>
	Speckled Alder	<i>Alnus rugosa</i>
	Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
	Steeplebush	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>
	Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
	American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
	Rose Bay	<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>
Facultative	Foxtail Grass	<i>Setaria geniculata</i>
	Wrinkled Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>
	Purple Joe-Pye-weed	<i>Eupatoriadelphus purpureus</i>
	Poison Ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
	Sweet Pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>
	Sheep Laurel	<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>
	Oblong-leaf Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>
	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
	Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>
Ironwood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	
Facultative Upland	Ground-pine	<i>Lycopodium obscurum</i>
	Bracken Fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
	Partridgeberry	<i>Mitchella repens</i>
	Black Huckleberry	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>
	American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>
	White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
	White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	

## Wetland Plant Communities

Many factors influence wetland vegetation and community structure, including climate, hydrology, water chemistry, and human activities. Penfound (1952) identified the most important physical factors as: (1) location of the water table, (2) fluctuation of water levels, (3) soil type, (4) acidity, and (5) salinity. He also recognized the role of biotic factors, i.e., plant competition, animal actions, and human activities. Many construction projects alter the hydrology of wetlands through channelization and drainage or by changing surface water runoff patterns, especially in urban areas. These activities often

have a profound effect on plant composition. This is particularly evident in coastal marshes where mosquito ditching has increased the abundance of high-tide bush (*Iva frutescens*), especially on spoil mounds adjacent to ditches. Repeated timber cutting and severe fires may also have profound effects on wetland communities. Many former Atlantic white cedar swamps in the Northeast are now red maple swamps because most of the cedar has been harvested.

Rhode Island's wetlands fall within five ecological systems inventoried by the NWI: Marine, Estuarine, Riverine, Lacustrine and Palustrine. In coastal areas, the es-

tuarine marshes, which include salt marshes and tidal mudflats, are most abundant, with marine wetlands generally limited to rocky shores and intertidal beaches along Block Island and Rhode Island Sounds. Overall, however, palustrine wetlands predominate, representing about 87 percent of the state's wetlands, whereas estuarine wetlands represent only 11 percent. Palustrine wetlands include the overwhelming majority of freshwater marshes, swamps, and ponds. Wetlands associated with the riverine and lacustrine systems are largely restricted to nonpersistent emergent wetlands, aquatic beds, and nonvegetated flats. The following sections address major wetland types in each ecological system. Descriptions are based on field observations and a review of scientific literature.

### Marine Wetlands

The Marine System includes the open ocean overlying the continental shelf and the associated high-energy coastline. Deepwater habitats predominate in this system, with wetlands generally limited to sandy intertidal beaches, cobble-gravel shores, and rocky shores along Block Island and Rhode Island Sounds and sand bars at the mouths of coastal inlets (Figure 15). Vegetation is sparse and scattered along the upper zones of beaches. Vascular plants, such as sea rocket (*Cakile edentula*), beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), beach orach (*Atriplex arenaria*), and beach pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*) occur in these areas. Rocky shores are often colonized by macroalgae, mainly rockweeds (*Fucus* spp. and *Ascophyllum nodosum*).

### Estuarine Wetlands

The Estuarine System consists of tidal salt and brackish waters and contiguous wetlands where ocean water is at least occasionally diluted by freshwater runoff from the land. It extends upstream in coastal rivers to fresh water where no measurable ocean-derived salts (less than 0.5 parts per thousand) can be detected. A variety of wetland types develop in estuaries largely because of differences in salinity and duration and frequency of flooding. Major estuarine wetland types include: (1) intertidal flats, (2) emergent wetlands, (3) scrub-shrub wetlands, and (4) aquatic beds.

#### *Estuarine Intertidal Flats*

Intertidal flats of mud and/or sand are extremely common in estuaries, particularly between salt marshes and coastal waters (Figure 16). Small gravel flats are present in isolated areas of Narragansett Bay (F. Golet, pers. comm.). Estuarine tidal flats are typically flooded by tides

and exposed to air twice daily. These flats are generally devoid of macrophytes, although smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) may occur in isolated clumps on mud flats. Microscopic plants, especially diatoms, euglenoids, dinoflagellates and blue green algae, are often extremely abundant, yet inconspicuous (Whitlatch 1982).

#### *Estuarine Emergent Wetlands*

Differences in salinity and tidal flooding within estuaries have a profound and visible effect on the distribution of emergent vegetation. Plant composition changes markedly from the more saline portions to the brackish areas further inland. Even within areas of similar salinity, vegetation differs largely due to the frequency and duration of tidal flooding and, locally, due to freshwater runoff.

Salt marshes are the typical estuarine emergent wetlands in Rhode Island. They have formed on the intertidal shores of salt and brackish tidal waters in three major types of areas: (1) salt ponds (e.g., Winnapaug, Ninigret, and Potter Ponds), (2) coastal rivers (e.g., Pettaquamscutt, Barrington, and Warren Rivers), and (3) coves, harbors and other coastal embayments (e.g., Colonel Willie Cove, Coggeshall Cove, Wickford Harbor, Dutch Harbor, Mill Cut, and Mount Hope Bay). Plates 7–8 show examples of Rhode Island's salt marshes.

Based on differences in tidal flooding, two general vegetative zones are recognized within salt marshes: (1) regularly flooded low marsh and (2) irregularly flooded high marsh (Figure 17). The vegetation of each zone is different due to flooding frequency and duration, among other factors. The low marsh is flooded at least once daily by the tides. Above this level is the high marsh which is flooded less often than daily.

A single plant—the tall form (approximately 3–6 feet high) of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*)—dominates the low marsh from approximately mean sea level to the mean high water mark. This zone is generally limited to creekbanks and upper borders of tidal flats. A recent study in Connecticut found that the tall form of smooth cordgrass was an accurate indicator of the landward extent of mean high tide (Kennard, *et al.* 1983).

The vegetation of the high marsh often forms a complex mosaic rather than a distinct zone. Plant diversity increases with several species being abundant, including a short form of smooth cordgrass, salt hay grass (*Spartina patens*), spike grass (*Distichlis spicata*), glassworts (*Salicornia* spp.), marsh orach (*Atriplex patula*), sea lavender (*Limonium nashii*), salt marsh aster (*Aster tenuifolius*), and black grass (*Juncus gerardii*). Pools and tidal creeks



1



2



3



4



5



6

**Plates 1–6.** Examples of four hydric soils and two nonhydric soils: (1) Carlisle muck, (2) Scarboro mucky sandy loam (3) Wareham loamy sand, (4) Ridgebury fine sandy loam (hydric), (5) Ridgebury fine sandy loam (nonhydric), and (6) Sudbury sandy loam. Compare Plates 4 and 5 which show hydric and nonhydric members of the Ridgebury series. Note the position of the gray subsoils in each - immediately below the surface layer in the hydric soil and below 20 inches in the nonhydric soil. The nonhydric Sudbury soil is clearly much brighter colored than the dull-colored hydric soils.



**Plate 7.** Salt marsh (estuarine intertidal emergent wetland) in Tiverton. Note the developing marsh (clumps of smooth cordgrass) on the tidal flat.



**Plate 8.** Salt marsh adjacent to Winnapaug Pond, Westerly. Note the regularly flooded low marsh along the creek and mixed vegetation pattern of the irregularly flooded high marsh.



**Plate 9.** Freshwater wetlands in Frying Pan Pond (Wood River), Richmond. Note the distinctive plant zonation: water-hearts in shallow permanently flooded area, pickerelweed and bayonet rush in the semipermanently flooded zone, and sedges, grasses, and shrubs in the seasonally flooded area.



**Plate 10.** Seasonally flooded marsh (palustrine emergent wetland) along the Chipuxet River, West Kingston.





**Plate 11.** Seasonally flooded marsh on Block Island. Note the diverse plant community.



**Plate 12.** Grazed wet meadow in Tiverton. Sweet flag and soft rush dominate this saturated palustrine wetland.



**Plate 13.** Diamond Bog, Richmond in autumn. Leatherleaf, a broad-leaved evergreen shrub, dominates this saturated scrub-shrub wetland.



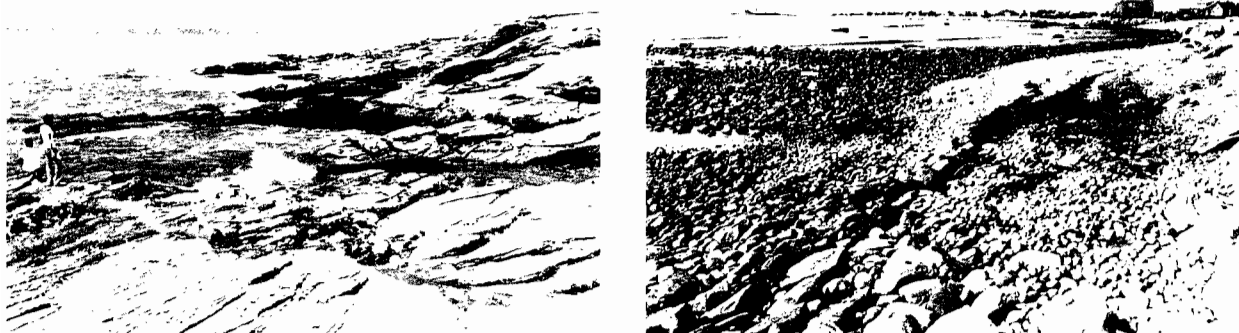
**Plate 14.** Newton Marsh, Westerly. It is a good example of a diverse, seasonally flooded palustrine deciduous scrub-shrub wetland.



**Plate 15.** Atlantic white cedar swamp (palustrine evergreen forested wetland) bordering Ell Pond, Rockville. A leatherleaf bog forms a floating mat along the shoreline.



**Plate 16.** Red maple swamp (palustrine deciduous forested wetland), Richmond. Most of these swamps occur in depressions, but some occur on seepage slopes.



**Figure 15.** Marine intertidal wetlands form much of the Rhode Island coastline: (1) bedrock rocky shore at Beaver Tail (left) and (2) cobble-gravel unconsolidated shore at Point Judith (right).

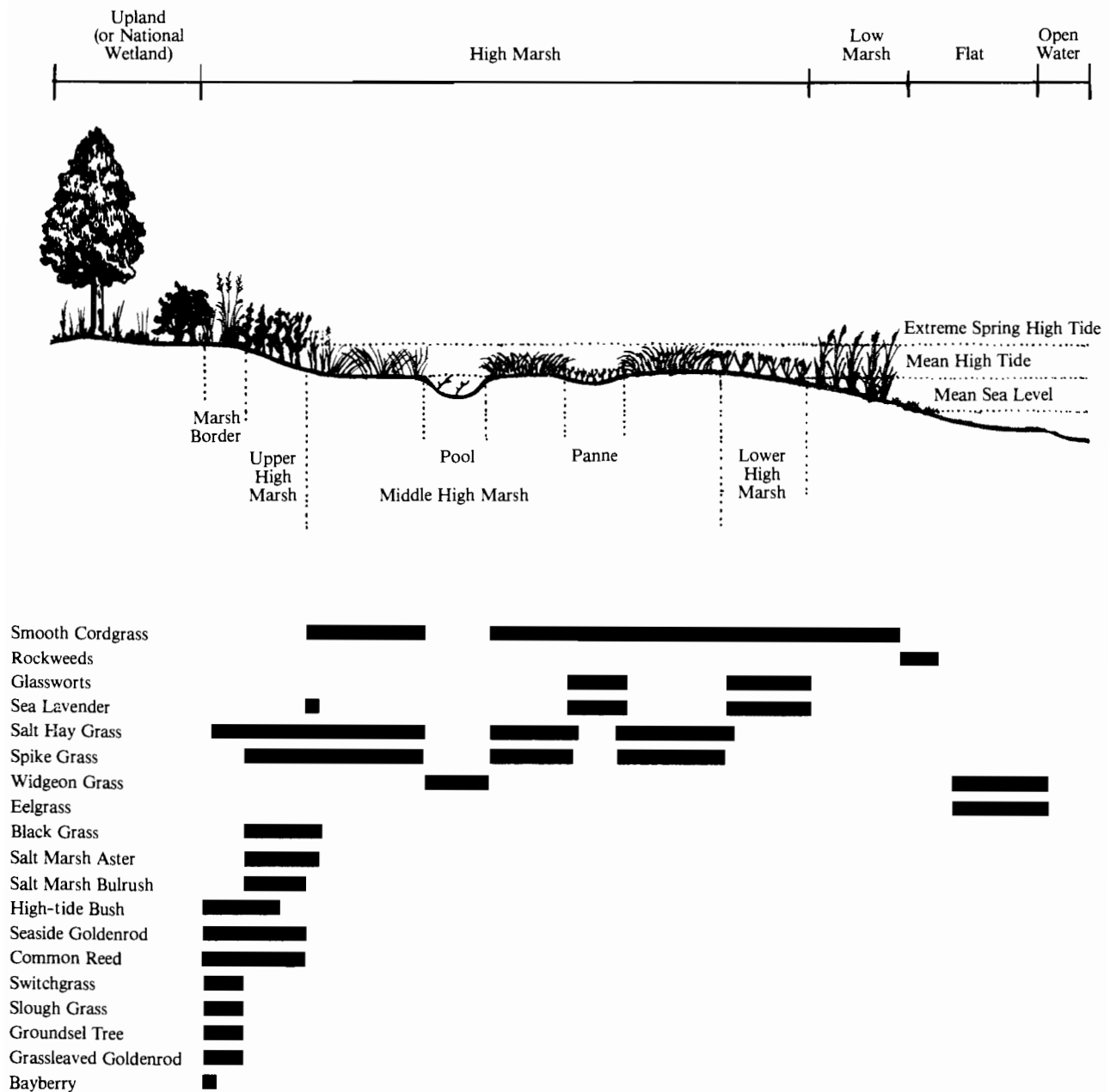
within the salt marshes may be vegetated with widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*), sea lettuce (*Ulva lactuca*), or other algae.

The short form of smooth cordgrass forms extensive stands just above the low marsh. Within these and higher areas, shallow depressions called pannes can be found.

These pannes are subjected to extreme temperatures and salinity. Summer salinities may exceed 40 parts per thousand (Martin 1959), while after heavy rains they may be filled with fresh water. Although they may be devoid of plants, many pannes are colonized by a short form of smooth cordgrass, glassworts, and spike grass, while blue-green algae may form a dense surface mat.



**Figure 16.** Estuarine emergent wetland and exposed tidal flat (low tide) at Succotash Marsh in Jerusalem.



**Figure 17.** Generalized plant zonation in southern New England salt marshes: (1) low marsh and (2) high marsh. The high marsh can be further divided into several subzones. Note that plant diversity increases toward upland. (Source: adapted from Tiner 1987)

Above the short cordgrass marsh, two grasses and one rush predominate: salt hay grass, spike grass, and black grass (a member of the Rush Family). Salt hay grass often forms nearly pure stands, but it is frequently intermixed with spike grass. Spike grass usually forms pure or nearly pure stands in the more poorly drained high marsh areas where standing water is present for extended periods. The short form of smooth cordgrass also frequently occurs in this middle high marsh zone and is often intermixed with

salt hay grass. Black grass, which is actually a rush, is found in abundance at slightly higher levels, often with high-tide bush (*Iva frutescens*). Other common high marsh plants include: seaside arrow grass (*Triglochin maritima*), salt marsh bulrush (*Scirpus robustus*), seaside plantain (*Plantago maritima*), sea lavender, marsh orach, salt marsh aster, seaside gerardia (*Agalinis maritima*), sea blite (*Suaeda maritima*), seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), and sand spurrey (*Spergularia maritima*).

Creeks and ditches throughout the high marsh are often immediately bordered by a tall or intermediate form of smooth cordgrass, while old spoil mounds adjacent to these mosquito ditches may be colonized by high-tide bush.

At the upland edge of salt marshes, switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), slough grass (*Spartina pectinata*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), groundsel tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*), high-tide bush, and red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) frequently occur. Other plants present in border areas include bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*), poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), seaside goldenrod, grass-leaved goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*), sweet grass (*Hierochloa odorata*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), wild rye (*Elymus virginicus*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), and marsh pink (*Sabatia stellaris*). Where freshwater influence from the upland is strong, narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), three-squares (*Scirpus americanus* and *S. pungens*), marsh fern (*Thelypteris thelypteroides*), rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*), creeping bent grass (*Agrostis stolonifera* var. *compacta*), spikerushes (*Eleocharis* spp.), Canada rush (*Juncus canadensis*), and other species may occur. These areas resemble brackish marshes which are more extensive in adjacent states.

Two Fish and Wildlife Service reports on New England salt marshes (Nixon 1982; Teal 1986) serve as useful references on the ecology of New England salt marshes.

#### *Estuarine Scrub-Shrub Wetlands*

Estuarine shrub wetlands are not common along the Rhode Island coast. Where present, they are usually dominated by high-tide bush. This shrub is especially common along mosquito ditches in salt marshes where it has become established on mounds of deposited material and along the upper edges of salt marshes. Salt hay grass, spike grass, and black grass are often co-dominants with high-tide bush in the high marsh. Groundsel tree may also be present along the upland border of salt marshes.

#### *Estuarine Aquatic Beds*

Shallow coastal embayments called "salt ponds" are a dominant feature along Rhode Island's coast. In Washington County, these ponds lie between the mainland and narrow barrier beaches. Most are connected to the ocean by manmade channels (breachways), while two ponds—Trustom Pond and Cards Ponds are not permanently connected to the sea. Ponds with breachways have higher salinities and are subjected to daily tidal action, while Trustom and Cards Ponds are brackish due to intermittent tidal influence. Prior to the building of permanent breach-

ways, widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*) was the dominant aquatic bed plant. With increased salinities after breachway construction, eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) replaced much of the widgeon grass (Lee 1980). Other aquatic species reported in salt ponds include sago pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), clasping-leaved pondweed (*P. perfoliatus*), narrowleaf pondweed (*P. pusillus* = *P. berchtoldii*), horned pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*), naiads (*Najas* spp.), and muskgrasses (*Chara* spp.) (Wright, *et al.* 1949). Thorne-Miller and others (1983) recently mapped the distribution of submerged aquatic bed vegetation in five of Rhode Island's coastal ponds.

#### **Riverine Wetlands**

The Riverine System encompasses all of Rhode Island's freshwater rivers and their tributaries, including the freshwater tidal reaches of coastal rivers where salinity is less than 0.5 ppt. This system is composed largely of deepwater habitats and nonvegetated wetlands, with the wetlands occurring between the riverbank and deep water (6.6 feet and greater in depth).

Although many of the state's freshwater vegetated wetlands lie along nontidal rivers and streams, only a small fraction of these are considered riverine wetlands according to the Service's classification system (Cowardin, *et al.* 1979). Riverine wetlands are by definition largely restricted to shallow bottoms and aquatic beds within the channels and to fringes of nonpersistent emergent plants growing on river banks or in shallow water. Contiguous wetlands dominated by persistent vegetation (i.e., trees, shrubs, and robust emergents) are classified as palustrine wetlands.

Riverine wetlands are most visible along slow-flowing, meandering lower perennial rivers and streams. Here nonpersistent emergent plants such as burreeds (*Sparganium* spp.), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), arrowheads (*Sagittaria* spp.), arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*), wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*), rice cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*), true forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), and smartweeds colonize very shallow waters and exposed shores. Aquatic beds may also become established in slightly deeper waters of clear rivers and streams. Important aquatic bed plants include submerged forms of burreeds and arrowheads, pondweeds and riverweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.), spatterdock (*Nuphar luteum*), and white water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*).

#### **Palustrine Wetlands**

Palustrine wetlands are the most common wetlands in Rhode Island. They represent the most floristically di-

verse group of wetlands in the state and include freshwater marshes, wet meadows, swamps, bogs, and shallow ponds. This collection of wetlands encompasses a wider range of water regimes than wetlands of other systems, with the more common water regimes being permanently flooded, semipermanently flooded, seasonally flooded, and saturated. Certain tidally influenced freshwater areas are also considered palustrine wetlands. While numerous plants may be restricted to one or two major hydrologic regimes, many plants, such as red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and purple loosestrife, tolerate a wide range of flooding and soil saturation conditions. Although their tolerances may be high, some wetland species are usually more prevalent under certain conditions and may, therefore, be used as indicators of certain water regimes. Examples of plant-water regime relationships are presented in Table 10 (Chapter 4). Palustrine wetland plant communities are discussed by class in the following subsections. The reader must recognize that due to the diversity of these communities, this discussion characterizes only the major types in general terms. Moreover, it is based largely on observations made during the inventory, since few studies have been conducted in Rhode Island's freshwater wetlands.

#### *Palustrine Aquatic Beds*

Small ponds, many of which were artificially-created, are common throughout the state. These permanently or semipermanently flooded water bodies comprise the wettest of palustrine wetlands. Many shallow ponds have aquatic beds covering all or part of their surfaces or bottoms. Common dominance types include green algae, floating species such as duckweeds (*Lemna* spp., *Spirodela polyrhiza*, and others) and bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.), and rooted vascular plants, such as spatterdock, white water lily, water shield (*Brasenia schreberi*), watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*), and pondweeds.

#### *Palustrine Emergent Wetlands*

Palustrine emergent wetlands are primarily freshwater marshes and wet meadows dominated by persistent and nonpersistent grasses, rushes, sedges, and other herbaceous or grass-like plants. Nearly all of these wetlands are nontidal, with tidal freshwater marshes being virtually nonexistent in Rhode Island (F. Golet, pers. comm.). Plates 9–12 show examples of palustrine emergent wetlands.

Nontidal freshwater emergent wetlands are common throughout the state (Figure 18). Compared to the palustrine forested and shrub wetlands, however, these emergent wetlands represent only a small portion (three percent) of the state's freshwater wetlands. The water

regime in freshwater marshes greatly affects plant community composition.

Semipermanently flooded emergent marshes may be dominated by broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*), bayonet rush (*Juncus militaris*), spatterdock, pickerelweed, common three-square (*Scirpus pungens*), arrow arum, water willow (*Decodon verticillatus*), and bur-reeds. Associated plants include duckweeds, white water lily, pondweeds, water parsnip (*Sium suave*), umbrella pennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*), soft-stemmed bulrush (*Scirpus validus*), arrowheads, and a variety of submergent aquatics.

Dominant plants of seasonally flooded emergent wetlands include rice cutgrass, broad-leaved cattail, narrow-leaved cattail, common reed, soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), Canada rush (*J. canadensis*), water willow, reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), sweet flag (*Acorus calamus*), arrow arum, manna grasses (*Glyceria canadensis* and others), wool grass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), three-way sedge (*Dulichium arundinaceum*), tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*), other sedges (e.g., *C. lurida*, *C. stipata*, and *C. vulpinoidea*), and grass-leaved goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*). Soft rush and sweet flag are especially common in grazed wet meadows which may be seasonally flooded or saturated (Golet and Davis 1982). Sweet flag also occurs with broad-leaved cattail in seasonally flooded marshes. Other common plants are jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), arrow-leaved tearthumb (*Polygonum sagittatum*), purple loosestrife, smartweeds, sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), marsh fern, boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), grasses (*Agrostis* sp. and others), green bulrush (*Scirpus atrovirens*), asters (*Aster* spp.), broad-leaved arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*), spikerushes, Joe-Pye-weeds (*Eupatoriadelphus* spp.), bedstraw (*Galium tinctorium*), common three-square, swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), and water purslane (*Ludwigia palustris*). Other emergents in seasonally flooded marshes and wet meadows include blue flag (*Iris versicolor*), bugleweeds (*Lycopus* spp.), marsh St. John's-wort (*Triadenum virginicum*), other St. John's-worts (*Hypericum* spp.), umbrella sedges (*Cyperus* spp.), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), swamp dock (*Rumex verticillatus*), bittersweet nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*), soft-stemmed bulrush, blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*), water parsnip, horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.), dodder (*Cuscuta gronovii*), swamp candles (*Lysimachia terrestris*), rough-stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*), mad-dog skullcap (*Scutellaria lateriflora*), skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), and panic grasses (*Panicum* spp. and *Dichanthehium* spp.). Shrubs, such as willows (*Salix* spp.), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*), northern arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*), common elderberry (*Sambucus*



Figure 18. Freshwater marsh near Woodville, dominated by tussock sedge.

*canadensis*), speckled alder (*Alnus rugosa*), steeplebush (*Spiraea tomentosa*), broad-leaved meadowsweet (*Spiraea latifolia*), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), and silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), and saplings of red maple may be scattered within these emergent wetlands.

Seasonally flooded emergent wetlands called “fens” are represented by an herbaceous community of woolly-fruit sedge (*Carex lasiocarpa*), twig-rush (*Cladium mariscoides*), bluejoint, and buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), with shrubs, mainly sweet gale (*Myrica gale*) and leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), also common (Golet and Davis 1982). Emergent “bogs” carpeted with peat mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.) and having a saturated water regime are commonly dominated by beaked sedge (*Carex rostrata*), white beak-rush (*Rhynchospora alba*) or twig-rush, with cottongrass (*Eriophorum virginicum*) usually present (F. Golet, pers. comm.). Soft rush and Virginia chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*) may also occur.

Temporarily flooded emergent wetlands may support soft rush, reed canary grass, common reed, goldenrods (*Solidago* spp. and *Euthamia* spp.), Joe-Pye-weeds, as-

ters, and others. These emergent wetlands are less common than the seasonally flooded types.

#### *Palustrine Scrub-shrub Wetlands*

Scrub-shrub wetlands represent just less than 10 percent of Rhode Island’s inland wetlands. They are characterized by the dominance of shrubs or tree saplings less than 20 feet tall. Two general types of scrub-shrub wetlands are present in the state: (1) deciduous scrub-shrub wetlands and (2) evergreen scrub-shrub wetlands, with the former group being most abundant. Mixtures of these types occur. Also, many shrub wetlands are intermixed with emergent wetlands. Examples of scrub-shrub wetland communities are presented in Table 17 and are pictured in Plates 13–14.

Deciduous shrub swamps may be dominated by one or more of several species including buttonbush, sweet gale, highbush blueberry, swamp azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*), winterberries (*Ilex verticillata* and *I. laevigata*), northern arrowwood, alders (*Alnus rugosa* and *A. serulata*), sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), silky dogwood, swamp rose, and saplings of red maple (*Acer rubrum*). The first two species usually occur in the wettest



**Table 17.** Examples of palustrine scrub-shrub wetlands in Rhode Island.

Dominance Type	Associated Vegetation	Location (County)
Highbush Blueberry	Common Winterberry, Swamp Azalea, Red Maple, Spikerush, Peat Moss, Tussock Sedge, Chokeberry, Serviceberry, Black Gum, White Pine, Cinnamon Fern, Canada Mayflower, Blue Flag, Gray Birch, Sheep Laurel, and Broad-leaved Meadowsweet	Providence
Buttonbush	Tussock Sedge, Alder, Bluejoint, Swamp Rose, and Broad-leaved Cattail	Kent
Well-Mixed Deciduous Shrubs	Red Maple, Ash, Northern Arrowwood, Willow, Smooth Winterberry, Swamp Rose, Multiflora Rose, Grape, Serviceberry, and Poison Ivy	Newport
Well-Mixed Deciduous Shrubs	Sweet Pepperbush, Highbush Blueberry, Swamp Azalea, Maleberry, Peat Mosses, Soft Rush, Twig-rush, Virginia Chain Fern, Red Maple, and Cottongrass	Newport
Highbush Blueberry/ Sweet Pepperbush	Mosses, Red Maple, Cinnamon Fern, White Pine, Ash, and Black Gum	Providence
Leatherleaf/ Tussock Sedge	Broad-leaved Meadowsweet, Peat Moss, Yellow Pond Lily, Steeplebush, Sweet Pepperbush, and Red Maple	Kent
Leatherleaf/Sweet Gale/ Sweet Pepperbush/Broad-leaved Meadowsweet	Tussock Sedge, Atlantic White Cedar, and White Pine	Kent
Red Maple (saplings)	Tussock Sedge, Bugleweed, Peat Moss, Blunt Manna Grass, and Sedge	Providence
Silky Dogwood	Swamp Rose, Speckled Alder, Red Maple, Joe-Pye-weed, Boneset, Sedge, Jewelweed, Sensitive Fern, Horsetail, Soft Rush, Northern Arrowwood, Grasses, Tussock Sedge, and Green Ash	Bristol
Red Maple	Highbush Blueberry, Common Winterberry, Sweet Pepperbush, Northern Arrowwood, Poison Ivy, Gray Birch, Cinnamon Fern, Sensitive Fern, and Skunk Cabbage	Bristol
Swamp Rose	Northern Arrowwood, Elderberry, Sensitive Fern, Skunk Cabbage, Broad-leaved Cattail, Red Maple, Serviceberry, Willow, and Reed Canary Grass	Newport
Well-Mixed Deciduous Shrubs	Sweet Gale, Swamp Rose, Sweet Pepperbush, Common Winterberry, Swamp Azalea, Highbush Blueberry, Poison Ivy, Black Chokeberry, Red Maple, Peat Moss, and Marsh Fern	Washington
Highbush Blueberry/ Water Willow/ Swamp Azalea	Cinnamon Fern, Sweet Pepperbush, Peat Moss, White Pine, Skunk Cabbage, Serviceberry, Canada Mayflower, Wild Calla, and Maleberry; Edges: Red Maple, Blue Flag, Broad-leaved Meadowsweet, and Gray Birch	Providence
Speckled Alder/Willow/ Common Winterberry	Red Maple, Buttonbush, Swamp Rose, and Steeplebush with various emergents	Providence

areas, often in shallow water along the shores of lakes, ponds or rivers, whereas the other species are generally associated with seasonally flooded wetlands (Figure 19). Water willow may be intermixed with buttonbush in many shallow water areas. Leatherleaf is sometimes an associate of sweet gale (Golet and Davis 1982). Wright (1941) observed royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), northern wild raisin (*Viburnum cassinoides*), leatherleaf, maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina*), and hoary willow (*Salix candida*) in mixed deciduous shrub swamps within the Great Swamp in Washington County. Other common shrubs include oblong-leaf shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*), steeplebush, broad-leaved meadowsweet, chokeberries (*Aronia* spp.), common elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), and willows (*Salix* spp.). Occasionally bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) and gray birch (*Betula populifolia*) are found in palustrine wetlands. A variety of herbaceous plants are common in shrub swamps. Peat mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.)

may be present in great abundance, especially in boggy areas.

Evergreen scrub-shrub wetlands are represented by two types of communities: (1) leatherleaf bogs and (2) Atlantic white cedar sapling swamps. The former type is dominated by leatherleaf, with associated species including pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*), rose pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*), round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), cotton-grasses (*Eriophorum virginicum* and *E. tennellum*), and bog clubmoss (*Lycopodium inundatum*) (Wright 1941). Sweet gale, sweet pepperbush, broad-leaved meadowsweet, tussock sedge, white pine (*Pinus strobus*), and Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thuyoides*) may also be present. Golet and Davis (1982) observed peat mosses, black huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*), and cranberries (*Vaccinium macrocarpon* and *V. oxycoccus*) in this wetland type. Other bog species include white



Figure 19. Palustrine scrub-shrub wetland in Chapman Swamp in Westerly.

beak-rush, dwarf huckleberry (*Gaylussacia dumosa*), water willow, grass pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*), and Dragon's Mouth (*Arethusa bulbosa*) (F. Golet, pers. comm.). Wright (1941) described a regenerating Atlantic white cedar swamp in the Great Swamp. Plants associated with Atlantic white cedar in this swamp included rose bay (*Rhododendron maximum*), mountain holly (*Nemopanthus mucronata*), poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*), grass pink, rose pogonia, round-leaved sundew, bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), clintonia (*Clintonia borealis*), sweet white violet (*Viola blanda*), goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*), white fringed orchis (*Platanthera blephariglotis*), and pitcher plant. Leatherleaf and sweet gale may also be present in this type of wetland (F. Golet, pers. comm.).

#### Palustrine Forested Wetlands

Palustrine forested wetlands are the state's most abundant wetland type, representing about 73 percent of the state's wetlands and 83 percent of the nontidal wetlands. These wetlands are common along rivers and streams, in isolated depressions, and in drainageways on hillsides. Forested wetlands are characterized by the dominance of

woody plants 20 feet or taller. Three general types of forested wetlands occur in Rhode Island: (1) broad-leaved deciduous forested wetlands, (2) needle-leaved evergreen forested wetlands, and (3) mixtures of deciduous and evergreen forested wetlands. The former type is by far the more abundant type. Most of the state's forested wetlands are seasonally flooded; hillside swamps are saturated, while temporarily flooded wetlands are uncommon. Table 18 presents examples of forested wetland plant communities in Rhode Island, while Plates 15–16 illustrate two of them.

The majority of the broad-leaved deciduous forested wetlands are red maple swamps. Red maple dominates these wetlands, with numerous other plants occurring as associates. Common subordinates in these swamps include black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), white pine, Atlantic white cedar, and hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). White pine is frequently co-dominant. Other trees may also be present in lesser abundance, such as yellow birch (*Betula allegheniensis*), gray birch, green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), oblong-leaf shadbush, swamp

**Table 18.** Examples of palustrine forested wetlands in Rhode Island.

<b>Dominance Type</b>	<b>Associated Vegetation</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>
Red Maple	Trees: American Elm, Ironwood Shrubs: Spicebush, Northern Arrowwood, Japanese Barberry, Northern Wild Raisin Herbs: Skunk Cabbage, Wood Anemone, False Hellebore, Canada Mayflower, Tall Meadow-rue, Jewelweed, Sedge, Aster	Providence
Red Maple	Shrubs: Sweet Pepperbush, Northern Arrowwood, Elderberry, Highbush Blueberry, Northern Wild Raisin Herbs: Marsh Marigold, Skunk Cabbage, Tussock Sedge Others: Common Greenbriar	Providence
Red Maple	Trees: Yellow Birch, Black Gum, White Pine Shrubs: Highbush Blueberry, Sweet Pepperbush Herbs: Skunk Cabbage, Cinnamon Fern, Canada Mayflower, Blue Flag Others: Peat Moss, other Mosses	Providence
Red Maple	Shrubs: Sweet Pepperbush, Spicebush, Elderberry, Serviceberry Herbs: Jewelweed, Skunk Cabbage, Cinnamon Fern, Grass, Canada Mayflower, Wood Anemone, Turk's-cap Lily, Northern White Violet, Tall Meadow-rue, Horsetail, False Hellebore, Goldenrod	Providence
Red Maple	Trees: Atlantic White Cedar, White Oak Shrubs: Rose Bay, Highbush Blueberry, Common Winterberry Herbs: Cinnamon Fern	Washington
Red Maple	Shrubs: Rose Bay, Swamp Azalea, Sweet Pepperbush Herbs: Skunk Cabbage, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Cinnamon Fern Others: Peat Mosses, Swamp Dewberry	Washington
Red Maple	Shrubs: Sweet Pepperbush, Common Winterberry, Swamp Azalea Herbs: Skunk Cabbage, Sensitive Fern, Royal Fern, Sedge Others: Greenbriar, Poison Ivy	Newport
Red Maple/ Swamp White Oak/ American Elm	Shrubs: Northern Arrowwood, Highbush Blueberry, Common Winterberry, Swamp Rose Sensitive Fern, Grass, Skunk Cabbage, Jewelweed, Clearweed, Blue Flag, Herbs: Crowfoot Others: Poison Ivy	Bristol
Red Maple/White Pine	Shrubs: Highbush Blueberry, Sweet Pepperbush, Northern Wild Raisin, Swamp Azalea, Broad-leaved Meadowsweet, Chokeberry, Elderberry, Sheep Laurel, Mountain Holly Herbs: Tussock Sedge, Skunk Cabbage, Cinnamon Fern, Goldthread, Turk's-cap Lily, Tall Meadow-rue, Sensitive Fern, Canada Mayflower, Sedge, Violet, Goldenrod Others: Peat Mosses, Grape	Kent
Red Maple/White Pine	Trees: Yellow Birch, Ash Shrubs: Alder, Northern Arrowwood, Sweet Pepperbush, Swamp Azalea, Silky Dog- wood, Highbush Blueberry, Black Cherry, Northern Wild Raisin, Maleberry, Broad-leaved Meadowsweet, Swamp Rose, Smooth Gooseberry Herbs: Skunk Cabbage, Wood Anemone, Canada Mayflower, Cinnamon Fern, Tall Meadow-rue, False Hellebore, Sedge, Bellflower, Goldenrod, Bluejoint, Sensi- tive Fern, Whorled Aster, Marsh Blue Violet	Providence
Red Maple/White Pine	Trees: Yellow Birch, White Oak Shrubs: Alder, Highbush Blueberry, Common Winterberry, Sweet Pepperbush, Sheep Laurel, Northern Arrowwood Herbs: Cinnamon Fern, Aster Others: Peat Mosses, Grape	Newport
Red Maple/White Pine	Trees: Pitch Pine Shrubs: Sheep Laurel, Highbush Blueberry, Swamp Azalea, Northern Arrowwood, Broad-leaved Meadowsweet, Common Winterberry Herbs: Ground Pine, Canada Mayflower, Cinnamon Fern, Marsh St. John's-wort, Sedge, Royal Fern, Skunk Cabbage, Three-way Sedge Others: Peat Mosses, Greenbriar	Providence

Table 18. (Continued)

Dominance Type	Associated Vegetation	Location (County)
Red Maple/ Atlantic White Cedar	Trees: Yellow Birch, White Pine Shrubs: Highbush Blueberry, Swamp Azalea, Rose Bay, Northern Wild Raisin, Sweet Pepperbush Herbs: Cinnamon Fern, Skunk Cabbage, Starflower, Marsh Fern, Wild Sarsaparilla Others: Peat Mosses	Washington
Red Maple/Hemlock	Trees: Gray Birch, White Pine Shrubs: Highbush Blueberry, Northern Wild Raisin, Winterberry, Broad-leaved Meadowsweet, Spicebush, Chokeberry, Maleberry, Sheep Laurel Herbs: Skunk Cabbage, Turk's-cap Lily, Blue Flag, Northern White Violet, Goldenrod or Aster, Tussock Sedge Others: Peat Mosses, other Mosses, Swamp Dewberry	Providence
White Pine/Red Maple	Trees: Atlantic White Cedar, Ash, Red Oak Shrubs: Sweet Pepperbush, Spicebush, Common Winterberry, Swamp Azalea, Poison Sumac Herbs: Skunk Cabbage, New York Fern, Royal Fern, Shining Clubmoss Others: Ground Strawberry	Washington
White Pine/Red Maple	Shrubs: Highbush Blueberry, Sweet Pepperbush, Swamp Azalea, Inkberry, Common Winterberry, Northern Wild Raisin Herbs: Cinnamon Fern, Skunk Cabbage, Ground Pine, Starflower Others: Peat Mosses, Partridgeberry	Washington
White Pine	Trees: Red Maple, White Oak Shrubs: Sweet Pepperbush, Northern Wild Raisin, Highbush Blueberry, Sheep Laurel, Swamp Azalea, Wintergreen Herbs: Cinnamon Fern, Skunk Cabbage Others: Common Greenbriar, Peat Mosses, other Mosses, Ground Pine, Partridgeberry	Kent
Atlantic White Cedar	Trees: Hemlock, Red Maple, White Pine, Red Oak Shrubs: Highbush Blueberry Herbs: Cinnamon Fern, Skunk Cabbage Others: Peat Mosses	Kent
Atlantic White Cedar	Trees: Red Maple, Black Gum Shrubs: Sweet Pepperbush, Highbush Blueberry, Swamp Azalea, Mountain Laurel Others: Peat Mosses, other Mosses	Washington
Hemlock	Trees: Yellow Birch, Black Gum, Red Maple Shrubs: Mountain Laurel, Spicebush, Alder Herbs: Skunk Cabbage, Sedge, Marsh Marigold, False Hellebore Others: Peat Mosses, other Mosses	Providence

white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), and ironwood (*Carpinus carolinianus*). Red maple swamps typically have a dense shrub understory comprised mostly of sweet pepperbush, highbush blueberry, swamp azalea, rose bay, northern arrowwood, common winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), smooth winterberry (*I. laevigata*), swamp sweetbells (*Leucothoe racemosa*), and spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) (Figure 20). Less common shrubs that may be locally common include maleberry, northern wild raisin, meadowsweet, silky dogwood, black chokecherry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), swamp rose, alder buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), sheep laurel, and common elderberry. Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) may occur along the upper edges of these swamps. Several vines have been observed in Rhode Island red maple swamps, including poison ivy, common greenbriar (*Smilax rotundifolia*),

sawbriar (*S. glauca*), climbing hempweed (*Mikania scandens*), ground-nut (*Apios americana*), grape (*Vitis* sp.), and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) (personal observations; F. Golet, pers. comm.). The herbaceous layer in these swamps is variable, with areal coverage ranging from 0.2 percent to 70 percent in six red maple swamps studied by Lowry (1984). Common plants in this layer are cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), sensitive fern, royal fern, marsh fern, Massachusetts fern (*Thelypteris simulata*), jewelweed, tussock and other sedges, skunk cabbage, violets (*Viola pallens* and *V. cucullata*), netted chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata*), marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), and water horehounds (*Lycopus* spp.). Less common plants include crested fern (*Dryopteris cristata*), wood reed (*Cinna arundinacea*), blue flag, cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardi-*



**Figure 20.** Red maple swamps are the predominant wetland type in the state. Rose bay is a common understory species.

*nalis*), tall meadow-rue (*Thalictrum pubescens*), Turk's-cap lily (*Lilium canadense* ssp. *michiganense*), false hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), clearweed (*Pilea pumila*), and turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*). At higher levels in the swamp, Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), ground pine (*Lycopodium obscurum*), shining clubmoss (*Lycopodium lucidulum*), partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*), wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*), starflower (*Trientalis borealis*), and wood anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*) may be present (personal observations; Wright 1941). Peat mosses form abundant groundcover in depressions within many seasonally flooded and saturated red maple swamps. Swamp dewberry (*Rubus hispidus*) is also a common groundcover plant. A study on plant-soil relationships along the transition zone of Rhode Island's red maple swamps has been completed (Allen, *et al.* 1989). Davis (1988) examined vegetation-hydrology gradients in red maple swamps. In the near future, a Fish and Wildlife Service report on the ecology of red maple swamps will be published (Golet, *et al.* 1990).

Wright (1941) reported a mixed deciduous forested wetland community in the Great Swamp. This commu-

nity was slightly higher in elevation than the adjacent red maple swamp community. This mixed type was represented by several species of oak, including white oak (*Quercus alba*), black oak (*Q. velutina*), red oak (*Q. rubra*), swamp white oak (*Q. bicolor*), and pin oak (*Q. palustris*), and other trees, such as red maple, yellow birch, white ash, black gum, and white pine. American holly (*Ilex opaca*) was quite common in this community, while it was only scattered throughout other forested wetland types in the Great Swamp.

Evergreen forested wetlands are dominated by one of three conifers: (1) Atlantic white cedar, (2) white pine, and (3) hemlock. While most people associate white cedar with wetlands, many people think of white pine as an upland plant. Although white pine appears to be prevalent on well-drained upland sites, it is also quite common in Rhode Island's wetlands. In fact, Bromley (1935), in his discussion of the original forest types of southern New England, reported that at the time of settlement white pine was probably abundant only in swamps and moist sandy pine flats, and on exposed ridges. This distribution was attributed to white pine's susceptibility to fire. Today, wildfires are greatly suppressed, so white pine can thrive on better drained sites than it could originally. Surpris-

ingly, however, Mader (1976) in studying growth and productivity of white pine in Massachusetts found that the better sites were associated with the poorer drainage classes of soils (e.g., poorly drained and somewhat poorly drained).

Atlantic white cedar swamps are not as common as they were in the past. Many cedar swamps have been replaced by hardwood swamps or white pine-hemlock swamps (Bromley 1935). Most of the swamps called "Cedar Swamp" in Rhode Island (e.g., in Woonsocket, West Greenwich, and Wood River Junction) on the U.S.G.S. topographic maps are now red maple swamps. Atlantic white cedar swamps are most abundant in Washington County and the western parts of Kent and Providence Counties (Laderman, *et al.* 1987). They are associated with the state's largest wetlands, namely Chapman Swamp (Westerly), Indian Cedar Swamp (Charlestown), and Great Swamp (South Kingston, Richmond, and Charlestown). In the remaining cedar swamps, red maple appears to be the most common tree associated with the cedars, whereas black gum, gray birch, yellow birch, black birch (*Betula lenta*), white oak, white pine, hemlock, and pitch pine are less abundant. Hemlock may be common in the understory in some cedar swamps. In a few swamps in northwestern Rhode Island, Atlantic white cedar is associated with black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and larch (*Larix laricina*) (Laderman, *et al.* 1987). Lowry (1984) found an average of 16 shrub species growing in six Atlantic white cedar swamps in southern Rhode Island. Common shrubs included sweet pepperbush, rose bay, swamp azalea, highbush blueberry, swamp sweetbells, common winterberry, and smooth winterberry. Sweet pepperbush was the most abundant shrub. Mountain holly, inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), and sheep laurel may also be present in lesser amounts. The herbaceous stratum generally is not as extensive as in red maple swamps, except where the tree canopy is more open. Lowry (1984) observed herbaceous covers ranging to 29 percent, with most of the study swamps having less than 4 percent coverage. This low coverage resulted from dense shading by the cedars and the shrub understory. Common herbaceous plants in cedar swamps include water willow, broad-leaved arrowhead, sedges (*Carex trisperma*, *C. rostrata*, and *C. lasiocarpa*), cinnamon fern, marsh fern, and starflower. Other herbaceous plants of interest include round-leaved sundew, pitcher plant, bladderworts, buckbean, marsh St. John's-wort, arrow arum, grass pink, Massachusetts fern, and cotton-grasses. Canada mayflower and creeping wintergreen (*Gaultheria hispidula*) may be found on the hummocks at the bases of the cedars, while wild calla (*Calla palustris*) or marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) may occur in shaded pools (personal observations; Bromley 1935). Peat mosses and

other mosses are common groundcover plants in cedar swamps.

White pine swamps are more abundant in central and northern Rhode Island which lie within the White Pine Region of southern New England characterized by Bromley (1935). As in the cedar swamps, red maple is the most common tree intermixing with white pine to varying degrees. In many areas, red maple often co-dominates, forming mixed evergreen/deciduous forested wetlands. Less common tree associates include Atlantic white cedar, ash, red oak, white oak, and yellow birch. The shrub layer contains several common species, including sweet pepperbush, highbush blueberry, swamp azalea, spicebush, and rose bay. Other shrubs observed in lesser amounts are winterberry, wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), northern wild raisin, sheep laurel, mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), inkberry, poison sumac, and partridgeberry. Herbaceous plants, such as skunk cabbage, goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*), cinnamon fern, royal fern, New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*), ground pine, shining clubmoss, and starflower may be present. Peat mosses may be found in varying amounts.

Hemlock swamps are less common than the other two evergreen forested wetland types and are relatively uncommon in Rhode Island. One such swamp observed in Foster had yellow birch, skunk cabbage, peat mosses, and other mosses as common associates. Plants in lesser amounts included mountain laurel, black gum, red maple, sedges, and marsh marigold. Contiguous hemlock areas were co-dominated by red maple and white pine.

### Lacustrine Wetlands

The Lacustrine System is principally a deepwater habitat system of freshwater lakes, reservoirs and deep ponds. Consequently, wetlands are generally limited to shallow waters and exposed shorelines, as in the Riverine System. While algae are probably more abundant in these waters, vascular macrophytes are often more conspicuous. A variety of life forms can be recognized: (1) free-floating plants, (2) rooted vascular floating-leaved plants, (3) submergent plants, and (4) nonpersistent emergent plants. The first three life forms characterize aquatic beds, whereas the latter dominates lacustrine emergent wetlands.

#### Lacustrine Aquatic Beds

Floating-leaved and free-floating aquatic beds are common in shallow lacustrine waters. Common floating-leaved plants include white water lily, spatterdock, water shield, pondweeds, and floating heart (*Nymphoides aquatica*). Duckweeds (*Lemna* spp. and *Spirodela polyrhiza*)



**Figure 21.** Lacustrine nonpersistent emergent wetland along Worden Pond in South Kingston. Bayonet rush predominates.

comprise free-floating aquatic beds, while bladderworts are also free-floating, but are typically submerged. Submergent aquatic beds may include pondweeds, bushy pondweeds (*Najas* spp.), wild celery (*Vallisneria americana*), waterweeds (*Elodea* spp.), water milfoils (*Myriophyllum* spp.), mermaidweed, coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), and fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*).

#### Lacustrine Emergent Wetlands

Emergent wetlands commonly border the margins of lakes, reservoirs, and deep ponds (Figure 21). Common

nonpersistent emergent plants may include bayonet rush, common three-square, yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris* sp.), pipeworts (*Eriocaulon* spp.), pickerelweed, burreeds, arrowheads, water parsnip, three-way sedge, and spike-rushes. Some of these plants are usually persistent, but along lake shores are subject to ice-scouring and therefore, may be considered nonpersistent. In many areas, persistent plants like cattails, reed canary grass, blue-joint, water willow, buttonbush, sweet gale, leatherleaf, swamp rose and others may form part of the lacustrine boundary. These persistent plants, however, represent palustrine wetlands along the lake shore.

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## CHAPTER 7.

### Wetland Values

#### Introduction

Rhode Island's wetlands have been traditionally used for hunting, trapping, fishing, berry harvest, timber and salt hay production, and livestock grazing. These uses tend to preserve the wetland integrity, although the qualitative nature of wetlands may be modified, especially by salt hay production and timber harvest. Human uses are not limited to these activities, but also include destructive and often irreversible actions such as drainage for agriculture and filling for industrial or residential development. In the past, many people considered wetlands as wastelands whose best use could only be attained through "reclamation projects" which led to the destruction of many wetlands. To the contrary, wetlands in their natural state provide a wealth of values to society (Table 19). These benefits can be divided into three basic categories: (1) fish and wildlife values, (2) environmental quality values, and (3) socio-economic values. The following discussion emphasizes the more important values of Rhode Island's wetlands, with significant national examples also presented. For an in-depth examination of wetland values, the reader is referred to *Wetland Functions and Values: The State of Our Understanding* (Greenson, *et al.* 1979). In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has created and maintains a wetland values database which records abstracts for over 5000 articles.

**Table 19.** List of major wetland values.

<b>Fish and Wildlife Values</b>	<b>Socio-economic Values</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fish and Shellfish Habitat</li><li>• Waterfowl and Other Bird Habitat</li><li>• Mammal and Other Wildlife Habitat</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flood Control</li><li>• Wave Damage Protection</li><li>• Shoreline Erosion Control</li><li>• Ground-water Recharge</li><li>• Water Supply</li><li>• Timber and Other Natural Products</li></ul>
<b>Environmental Quality Values</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water Quality Maintenance<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pollution Filter</li><li>• Sediment Removal</li><li>• Oxygen Production</li><li>• Nutrient Recycling</li><li>• Chemical and Nutrient Absorption</li></ul></li><li>• Aquatic Productivity</li><li>• Microclimate Regulator</li><li>• World Climate (Ozone layer)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Energy Source (Peat)</li><li>• Livestock Grazing</li><li>• Fish and Shellfishing</li><li>• Hunting and Trapping</li><li>• Recreation</li><li>• Aesthetics</li><li>• Education and Scientific Research</li></ul>

#### Fish and Wildlife Values

Fish and wildlife utilize wetlands in a variety of ways. Some animals are entirely wetland-dependent, spending their entire lives in wetlands. Others use wetlands only for specific reasons, such as reproduction and nursery grounds, feeding, and resting areas during migration. Many upland animals visit wetlands to obtain drinking water and food. In urbanizing areas, the remaining wetlands become important habitats—a type of refuge—for "upland" wildlife displaced by development (F. Golet, pers. comm.). Wetlands are also essential habitat for numerous rare and endangered animals and plants.

#### Fish and Shellfish Habitat

Due to their linkage with adjacent waters, Rhode Island's coastal and inland wetlands are important fish habitats. Estuarine wetlands are also essential habitats for grass shrimp, crabs, oysters, clams, and other invertebrates.

Approximately two-thirds of the major U.S. commercial fishes depend on estuaries and salt marshes for nursery or spawning grounds (McHugh 1966). Among the more familiar wetland-dependent fishes are menhaden, bluefish, flounder, white perch, sea trout, mullet, croaker, striped bass, and drum. Forage fishes, such as anchovies, killifishes, mummichogs, and Atlantic silversides, are among the most abundant estuarine fishes. Narragansett Bay and its associated wetlands are important spawning and nursery grounds for many fish species (T. Lynch, pers. comm.). Winter flounder spawn in the shallow shoals of the Bay on beds of sea lettuce (*Ulva lactuca*), with peak spawning taking place from January to March. These same beds are used in the spring by spawning tautogs. Other nearshore spawners include scup, butterfish, and squid. Coastal ponds serve as spawning areas for tomcod beginning in November. As many as 63 fish species use Narragansett Bay as a nursery ground, with highest use in the fall.

Coastal wetlands are also important for shellfish including bay scallops, grass shrimp, blue crabs, oysters, quahogs and other clams. A critical stage of the bay scallop's life cycle requires that larvae attach to eelgrass leaves for about a month (Davenport 1903). Blue crabs and grass shrimp are abundant in tidal creeks of salt marshes. Estuarine aquatic beds, in general, also provide important cover for juvenile fishes and other estuarine organisms (Good, *et al.* 1978).



**Figure 22.** Migratory birds depend on Rhode Island wetlands: (a) black duck, (b) Canada goose goslings, (c) American bittern, and (d) yellow warbler.

Freshwater fishes also find wetlands essential for survival. In fact, nearly all freshwater fishes can be considered wetland-dependent because: (1) many species feed in wetlands or upon wetland-produced food, (2) many fishes use wetlands as nursery grounds, and (3) almost all important recreational fishes spawn in the aquatic portions of wetlands (Peters, *et al.* 1979). Many rivers and streams along Rhode Island's coast are spawning grounds for alewife and a few rivers are also used by sea-run brown trout, rainbow smelt, and American shad. Common fishes in Rhode Island's freshwater rivers, lakes, and ponds include northern pike, chain pickerel, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill, common sunfish, yellow perch, brown bullhead, brook trout, rainbow trout, and white perch (Guthrie and Stolgitis 1977; RI DEM, pers. comm.). Northern pike spawn in early spring in flooded marshes and aquatic beds, while chain pickerel prefer aquatic beds. White perch are also early spring spawners, spawning in ponds and brackish coastal waters. Smallmouth bass spawn in about two feet of water from late May to early June. For all fish species, the presence of aquatic vegetation helps juvenile fishes avoid predator attacks, so wetlands are important nursery grounds.

### Waterfowl and Other Bird Habitat

In addition to providing year-round habitats for resident birds, wetlands are particularly important as breeding grounds, over-wintering areas and feeding grounds for migratory waterfowl and numerous other birds (Figure 22). Both coastal and inland wetlands are valuable bird habitats.

Rhode Island's salt marshes are used for nesting by birds such as common terns, clapper rails, king rails, mallards, black ducks, blue-winged teals, mute swans, willets, herring gulls, great black-backed gulls, red-winged blackbirds, marsh wrens, sharp-tailed sparrows, and seaside sparrows. Red-winged blackbirds and seaside sparrows prefer stands of the short form of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) which border permanent salt ponds, while marsh wrens prefer stands of the tall form of smooth cordgrass bordering tidal creeks and ditches (Reinert, *et al.* 1981). Moreover, the availability of open water and/or the short form smooth cordgrass community are directly related to the density of all breeding species. Bird breeding densities are over 2.5 times higher in un-

ditched salt marshes than in ditched marshes (Reinert, *et al.* 1981). Wading birds, such as little blue herons, black-crowned night herons, glossy ibises, cattle egrets, snowy egrets and great egrets, also feed and nest in and adjacent to Rhode Island's coastal wetlands. Great blue herons feed in these wetlands, but nest inland. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Erwin and Korschgen 1979) has identified nesting colonies of coastal water birds in Rhode Island and other northeastern states. Ospreys also nest in wetlands along the coast.

Southern New England coastal marshes are important feeding and stopover areas for migrating raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds. In Rhode Island, intertidal mudflats are principal feeding grounds for migratory shorebirds (e.g., sandpipers, plovers, and yellowlegs), while swallows can often be seen feeding on flying insects over the marshes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's winter waterfowl survey found an annual average of 9,700 scaup, 3,000 Canada geese, and 2,700 black ducks as well as hundreds of canvasbacks, mallards, mergansers, mute swans, scoters and other waterfowl overwintering in Rhode Island between 1980–1986.

Coastal beaches are used for nesting by piping plover (a Federal threatened species), American oystercatcher, and least tern. Rocky shores are nesting sites for gadwall, double-crested cormorant, roseate tern, and common tern (R. Enser, pers. comm.).

Rhode Island's inland wetlands are used by a variety of birds, including waterfowl, wading birds, rails and songbirds. Among the more typical species are black duck, wood duck, mallard, green-winged teal, Canada goose, mute swan, green-backed heron, great blue heron, least bittern, American bittern, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen, spotted sandpiper, marsh wren, winter wren, red-winged blackbird, belted kingfisher, tree swallow, northern rough-winged swallow, Acadian flycatcher, willow flycatcher, eastern kingbird, warbling vireo, swamp sparrow, and woodcock. Most of these species are associated with freshwater marshes and open water bodies. Wood duck, Acadian flycatcher, barred owl, northern saw-whet owl, northern waterthrush, Louisiana waterthrush, Canada warbler, and white-throated sparrow nest in forested wetlands. Among the birds breeding in shrub swamps are woodcock and willow flycatcher. Lowry (1984) reported on numerous observations made over a seven-year period in red maple swamps and Atlantic white cedar swamps. Forty-four bird species were seen in the maple swamps, whereas only 25 species were found in cedar swamps. Similar results were reported for southern New Jersey by Wander (1980). Among the birds nesting or assumed to nest in the 30-acre Diamond Bog are mallard, black duck, wood duck, ruffed grouse, Vir-

ginia rail, ruby-throated hummingbird, red-winged blackbird, northern oriole, common grackle, common flicker, downy woodpecker, eastern kingbird, great-crested flycatcher, purple finch, American goldfinch, eastern phoebe, tree swallow, blue jay, black-capped chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, northern waterthrush, common yellowthroat, Canada warbler, American robin, wood thrush, veery, cedar waxwing, black and white warbler, yellow warbler, ovenbird, song sparrow, and swamp sparrow (F. Golet, pers. comm.). (*Note:* Diamond Bog, located in the town of Richmond, is a mosaic of forested, scrub-shrub, and emergent wetlands with some open water.) In a study of eight red maple swamps in western Massachusetts, Swift (1980) found 46 breeding species. The most common breeders included common yellowthroat, veery, Canada warbler, ovenbird, northern waterthrush, and gray catbird. Anderson and Maxfield (1962) studied birdlife in a red maple-Atlantic white cedar swamp in southeastern Massachusetts and found the same species plus ruffed grouse, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, blue jay, black-capped chickadee, American robin, wood thrush, black-and-white warbler, and common grackle.

Wetlands are, therefore, crucial for the existence of many birds, ranging from waterfowl and shorebirds to migratory songbirds. Some spend their entire lives in wetland environments, while others primarily use wetlands for breeding, feeding or resting.

### **Mammal and Other Wildlife Habitat**

Many mammals and other wildlife inhabit Rhode Island wetlands. Muskrats are perhaps the most typical and widespread wetland mammal (Figure 23). Other furbearers inhabiting wetlands include river otter, mink, beaver, raccoon, skunk, red fox, fisher, and weasel. Hardwood swamps are reported to be the favorite habitat of raccoons in Rhode Island (Cronan and Brooks 1968). Beaver populations in the state have been growing since re-introduction in the 1950's. Beaver are most abundant in the Moosup River system in central western Rhode Island (C. Allin, pers. comm.). Smaller mammals also frequent wetlands such as eastern cottontail, New England cottontail, snowshoe hare, meadow vole, boreal red-backed vole, southern bog lemming, water shrew, and meadow jumping mouse, while large mammals may also be observed. White-tailed deer depend on Atlantic white cedar swamps for shelter and food during severe winters, but often use palustrine deciduous forested wetlands and scrub-shrub wetlands for resting and escape cover (Cronan and Brooks 1968; RI DEM, pers. comm.). Another group of mammals—bats—also use wetlands. They can often be seen in considerable numbers feeding over ponds, marshes, and other waterbodies in summer.



**Figure 23.** The muskrat is the most familiar and widespread wetland mammal in the state.

Besides mammals and birds, other forms of wildlife make their homes in wetlands. Reptiles (i.e., turtles and snakes) and amphibians (i.e., toads, frogs, and salamanders) are important residents. DeGraaf and Rudis (1983) described the non-marine reptiles and amphibians of New England including their habitat and natural history. Turtles are most common in Rhode Island's freshwater marshes and ponds and the more common ones include the eastern painted, spotted, box, stinkpot, wood, and snapping turtles. Common snakes found in and near wetlands include northern water, northern redbelly, eastern garter, eastern ribbon, eastern smooth green, and northern black racer. Among the more common toads and frogs in Rhode Island are Fowler's toad, American toad, northern spring peeper, green frog, bullfrog, wood frog, pickerel frog, and gray tree frog. Less common species include the northern leopard frog (a state special interest species) and the eastern spadefoot (state threatened) (R. Enser, pers. comm.). Adults of the red-spotted newt live in ponds with an abundance of submerged vegetation, while the juveniles are terrestrial. Many salamanders use temporary ponds or wetlands for breeding, although they may spend most of their years in upland or streamside habitats. Nearly all of the approximately 190 species of amphibians in North America are wetland-dependent at least for breeding (Clark 1979). Salamanders common in Rhode Island wetlands include the mudpuppy, spotted, northern dusky, and northern two-lined salamanders, while the four-toed and marbled salamanders are less common and are considered species of concern (R. Enser, pers. comm.).

#### **Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Plants**

Currently, the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program is tracking 261 plant species that are rare, threatened,

endangered, or of special interest or concern to the state due to their low numbers (R. Enser, pers. comm.). Of this list, approximately half (132 species) of the plants are considered wetland plants (Table 20). Among the wetland habitats where most of these plants occur are coastal plain pond shores (28 species), salt marshes, estuarine waters, and beaches (15 species), and bogs and fens (15 species).

#### **Environmental Quality Values**

Besides providing habitat for fish and wildlife, wetlands play a less conspicuous but essential role in maintaining high environmental quality, especially in aquatic habitats. They do this in a number of ways, including purifying natural waters by removing nutrients, chemical and organic pollutants, and sediment, and producing food which supports aquatic life.

#### **Water Quality Improvement**

Wetlands help maintain good water quality or improve degraded waters in several ways: (1) nutrient removal and retention, (2) processing chemical and organic wastes, and (3) reducing sediment load of water. Wetlands are particularly good water filters because of their locations between land and open water (Figure 24). Thus, they can both intercept runoff from land before it reaches the water and help filter nutrients, wastes and sediment from flooding waters. Clean waters are important to humans as well as to aquatic life.

First, wetlands remove nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, from flooding waters for plant growth and help prevent eutrophication or overenrichment of natural waters. Much of the nutrients are stored in the wetland soil. Freshwater tidal wetlands have proven effective in reducing nutrient and heavy metal loading from surface water runoff from urban areas in the upper Delaware River estuary (Simpson, *et al.* 1983c). Wetlands in and downstream of urban areas in Rhode Island probably also perform this function. It is, however, possible to overload a wetland and thereby reduce its ability to perform this function. Every wetland has a limited capacity to absorb nutrients and individual wetlands differ in their ability to do so.

Wetlands have been shown to be excellent removers of waste products from water. Sloey and others (1978) summarize the value of freshwater wetlands at removing nitrogen and phosphorus from the water and address management issues. They note that some wetland plants are so efficient at this task that some artificial waste treatment systems are using these plants. For example, the Max Planck Institute of Germany has a patent to create such

**Table 20.** Plant species of special concern to Rhode Island that occur in wetlands (R. Enser, pers. comm.).

<b>Plant Species</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>State Status<sup>1</sup></b>
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Water Horsetail	State Special Interest
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	Rough Horsetail	Species of Concern
<i>Lycopodium inundatum</i> var. <i>robustum</i>	Northern Bog Clubmoss	State Endangered
<i>Isoetes engelmannii</i>	Engelmann's Quillwort	State Special Interest
<i>Isoetes muricata</i>	Pointed Quillwort	State Special Interest
<i>Isoetes riparia</i> var. <i>canadensis</i>	River Quillwort	State Special Interest
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern	Species of Concern
<i>Larix laricina</i>	American Larch	State Threatened
<i>Picea mariana</i>	Black Spruce	Species of Concern
<i>Sparganium minimum</i>	Small Bur-reed	State Extirpated
<i>Najas guadalupensis</i>	Naiad	State Threatened
<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>	Pod Grass	State Endangered
<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>	Grassleaf Arrowhead	State Special Interest
<i>Sagittaria subulata</i> var. <i>gracillima</i>	River Arrowhead	State Extirpated
<i>Sagittaria teres</i>	Slender Arrowhead	State Endangered
<i>Panicum philadelphicum</i>	Philadelphia Panic Grass	State Special Interest
<i>Spartina cynosuroides</i>	Salt Reed Grass	State Special Interest
<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	Northern Gamagrass	State Threatened
<i>Zizania aquatica</i>	Wild Rice	Species of Concern
<i>Carex collinsii</i>	Collin's Sedge	State Endangered
<i>Carex exilis</i>	Bog Sedge	State Threatened
<i>Cyperus aristatus</i>	Awned Cyperus	State Extirpated
<i>Eleocharis equisetoides</i>	Horse-tail Spike-rush	State Special Interest
<i>Eleocharis melanocarpa</i>	Black-fruited Spike-rush	State Endangered
<i>Eleocharis tricostata</i>	Three-angle Spike-rush	State Endangered
<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>	Slender Cotton-grass	State Threatened
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	Hare's Tail	State Endangered
<i>Eriophorum viridicarinatum</i>	Bog Cotton-grass	State Special Interest
<i>Fuirena pumila</i>	Umbrella Grass	State Endangered
<i>Psilocarya scirpoides</i>	Long-beaked Bald Rush	State Endangered
<i>Rhynchospora inundata</i>	Drowned Horned Rush	State Endangered
<i>Rhynchospora macrostachya</i>	Beaked Rush	State Threatened
<i>Rhynchospora torreyana</i>	Torrey's Beaked Rush	State Threatened
<i>Scirpus etuberculatus</i>	Untubercled Bulrush	State Endangered
<i>Scirpus hudsonianus</i>	Cotton Club Rush	State Extirpated
<i>Scirpus longii</i>	Long's Bulrush	State Endangered
<i>Scirpus maritimus</i> var. <i>fernaldii</i>	Saltmarsh Bulrush	State Special Interest
<i>Scirpus robustus</i>	Leafy Bulrush	State Special Interest
<i>Scirpus smithii</i>	Smith's Bulrush	State Threatened
<i>Scirpus torreyi</i>	Torrey's Bulrush	State Special Interest
<i>Scleria reticularis</i>	Reticulated Nut-rush	State Threatened
<i>Orontium aquaticum</i>	Golden Club	State Endangered
<i>Xyris montana</i>	Northern Yellow-eyed Grass	State Threatened
<i>Xyris smalliana</i>	Small's Yellow-eyed Grass	Species of Concern
<i>Juncus debilis</i>	Weak Rush	State Special Interest
<i>Alectris farinosa</i>	Colicroot	Species of Concern
<i>Smilacina trifolia</i>	Three-leaved False Solomon's Seal	State Extirpated
<i>Streptopus roseus</i>	Rosy Twisted Stalk	State Threatened
<i>Trillium erectum</i>	Purple Trillium	State Threatened
<i>Lachnanthes caroliniana</i>	Carolina Redroot	State Threatened
<i>Arethusa bulbosa</i>	Swamp Pink	Species of Concern
<i>Calopogon tuberosus</i>	Tuberous Grass Pink	Species of Concern
<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	Early Coralroot	State Special Interest
<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	Yellow Lady's-slipper	State Threatened
<i>Liparis loeselii</i>	Yellow Twayblade	State Threatened
<i>Malaxis unifolia</i>	Green Adder's Mouth	State Endangered
<i>Platanthera blephariglottis</i>	White-fringed Orchis	State Threatened
<i>Platanthera ciliaris</i>	Yellow-fringed Orchis	State Endangered
<i>Platanthera flava</i> var. <i>herbiola</i>	Pale Green Orchis	State Endangered
<i>Platanthera hyperborea</i>	Northern Green Orchis	State Threatened
<i>Platanthera psycodes</i>	Small Purple-fringed Orchid	State Special Interest
<i>Spiranthes lucida</i>	Shining Ladies'-tresses	State Extirpated
<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	Lizard's Tail	State Endangered
<i>Salix pedicellaris</i>	Bog Willow	State Extirpated
<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	Slippery Elm	State Special Interest
<i>Arceuthobium pusillum</i>	Dwarf Mistletoe	State Endangered
<i>Polygonum glaucum</i>	Seabeach Knotweed	State Threatened
<i>Polygonum puritanorum</i>	Pondshore Knotweed	State Endangered
<i>Polygonum setaceum</i> var. <i>interjectum</i>	Strigose Knotweed	State Extirpated
<i>Atriplex glabriuscula</i>	Smooth Orache	State Special Interest
<i>Chenopodium leptophyllum</i>	Goosefoot	State Special Interest
<i>Suaeda maritima</i>	Sea-blite	Species of Concern
<i>Amaranthus pumilus</i>	Seabeach Amaranth	State Extirpated
<i>Honkenya peplodes</i>	Sea-beach Sandwort	Species of Concern
<i>Anemone riparia</i>	Large Anemone	State Extirpated
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	White Water Crowfoot	State Extirpated
<i>Ranunculus cymbalaria</i>	Seaside Buttercup	State Extirpated
<i>Ranunculus flabellaris</i>	Yellow Water Crowfoot	Species of Concern

Table 20. (Continued)

Plant Species	Common Name	State Status <sup>1</sup>
<i>Draba reptans</i>	Carolina Whitlow-Grass	State Extirpated
<i>Drosera filiformis</i>	Thread-leaved Sundew	State Endangered
<i>Podostemum ceratophyllum</i>	Riverweed	State Extirpated
<i>Parnassia glauca</i>	Grass-of-Parnassus	State Extirpated
<i>Saxifraga pensylvanica</i>	Swamp Saxifrage	State Threatened
<i>Dalibarda repens</i>	Dewdrop	State Endangered
<i>Crotalaria sagittalis</i>	Rattlebox	State Threatened
<i>Polygala cruciata</i>	Cross-leaved Milkwort	State Threatened
<i>Hypericum adpressum</i>	Creeping St. John's-wort	State Threatened
<i>Hypericum ellipticum</i>	Pale St. John's-wort	State Special Interest
<i>Viola incognita</i>	Large-leaf White Violet	State Special Interest
<i>Elatine americana</i>	American Waterwort	State Special Interest
<i>Rotala ramosior</i>	Toothcup	State Endangered
<i>Circaea alpina</i>	Small Enchanter's Nightshade	Species of Concern
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Marsh Willow-herb	State Special Interest
<i>Ludwigia sphaerocarpa</i>	Round-fruited False Loosestrife	State Endangered
<i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i>	Alternate-flowered Water-milfoil	State Extirpated
<i>Myriophyllum pinnatum</i>	Pinnate Water-milfoil	State Extirpated
<i>Angelica atropurpurea</i>	Large Angelica	State Extirpated
<i>Hydrocotyle verticillata</i>	Saltpond Pennywort	State Endangered
<i>Ligusticum scoticum</i>	Scotch Lovage	State Threatened
<i>Ptilimnium capillaceum</i>	Mock Bishop's Weed	State Special Interest
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Bog Rosemary	State Endangered
<i>Gaultheria hispida</i>	Creeping Snowberry	State Special Interest
<i>Gaylussacia dumosa</i> var. <i>bigeloviana</i>	Dwarf Huckleberry	Species of Concern
<i>Kalmia polifolia</i>	Pale Laurel	State Endangered
<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i> var. <i>projecta</i>	Projecting Fetter-bush	Species of Concern
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Pinxter-flower	State Extirpated
<i>Glaux maritima</i>	Sea Milkwort	State Extirpated
<i>Hottonia inflata</i>	Featherfoil	State Special Interest
<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	Black Ash	Species of Concern
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	Closed Gentian	State Extirpated
<i>Gentiana clausa</i>	Bottle Gentian	State Special Interest
<i>Gentianopsis crinita</i>	Fringed Gentian	State Threatened
<i>Sabatia kennedyana</i>	Plymouth Gentian	State Endangered
<i>Sabatia stellaris</i>	Sea Pink	State Threatened
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	False Dragon-head	State Special Interest
<i>Stachys hyssopifolia</i>	Hyssop-leaf Hedge-nettle	State Endangered
<i>Agalinis maritima</i>	Seaside Gerardia	Species of Concern
<i>Limosella australis</i>	Mudwort	Species of Concern
<i>Utricularia biflora</i>	Two-flower Bladderwort	State Threatened
<i>Utricularia geminiscapa</i>	Paired Bladderwort	State Special Interest
<i>Utricularia gibba</i>	Humped Bladderwort	State Special Interest
<i>Utricularia intermedia</i>	Flatleaf Bladderwort	State Special Interest
<i>Utricularia minor</i>	Small Bladderwort	State Extirpated
<i>Utricularia resupinata</i>	Reversed Bladderwort	State Threatened
<i>Utricularia subulata</i>	Zigzag Bladderwort	State Threatened
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Swamp-haw	State Threatened
<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>	Water Lobelia	Species of Concern
<i>Bidens connata</i>	Swamp Beggar-ticks	State Special Interest
<i>Bidens coronata</i>	Tickseed Sunflower	State Special Interest
<i>Coreopsis rosea</i>	Pink Tickseed	State Threatened
<i>Eupatorium leucolepis</i> var. <i>novae-angliae</i>	New England Boneset	State Endangered
<i>Sclerolepis uniflora</i>	Sclerolepis	State Endangered

<sup>1</sup>Definitions of State Status:

“State Endangered” are native species in imminent danger of extirpation from Rhode Island; these species meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. A species currently listed, or proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Federally endangered or threatened.
2. A species with 1 or 2 known or estimated total occurrences in the state.
3. A species apparently globally rare or threatened, and estimated to occur at approximately 100 or fewer occurrences range-wide.

“State Threatened” are native species which are likely to become state endangered in the future if current trends in habitat loss or other detrimental factors remain unchanged; these species meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. A species with 3 to 5 known or estimated occurrences in the state.
2. A species with more than 5 known or estimated occurrences in the state, but especially vulnerable to habitat loss.

“State Special Interest” are native species not considered to be State Endangered or State Threatened at the present time, but occur in 6 to 10 sites in the state.

“Species of Concern” are native species which do not apply under the above categories but are additionally listed by the Natural Heritage Program due to various factors of rarity and/or vulnerability.

“State Extirpated” are native species which have been documented as occurring in the state but for which current occurrences are unknown. When known, the last documentation of occurrence is included. If an occurrence is located for a State Extirpated species, that species would automatically be listed in the State Endangered category.



**Figure 24.** Wetlands are important for water quality improvement as well as flood water storage. Their location between the upland and the water facilitates these functions.

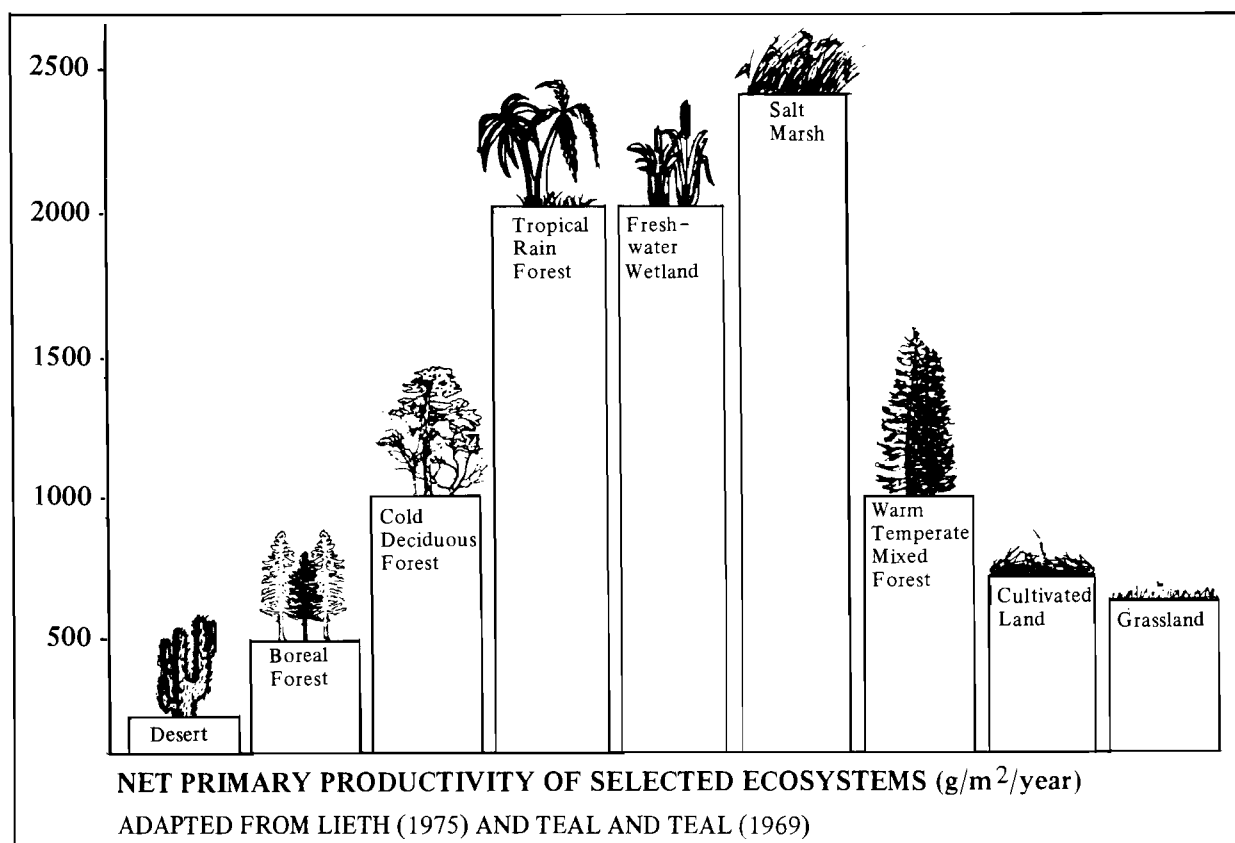
systems, where a bulrush (*Scirpus lacustris*) is the primary waste removal agent. Numerous scientists have proposed that certain types of wetlands be used to process domestic wastes and some wetlands are already used for this purpose (Sloey, *et al.* 1978; Carter, *et al.* 1979; Kadlec 1979). It must, however, be recognized that individual wetlands have a finite capacity for natural assimilation of excess nutrients and research is needed to determine this threshold (Good 1982). In the meantime, it may be prudent to use artificial wetlands for treatment of secondary wastes and then run the tertiary products into a natural wetland, rather than having natural wetlands process the entire wasteload. Godfrey and others (1985) discuss ecological considerations of using wetlands to treat municipal wastewaters.

Perhaps the best known example of the importance of wetlands for water quality improvement is Tinicum Marsh (Grant and Patrick 1970). Tinicum Marsh is a 512-acre freshwater tidal marsh lying just south of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Three sewage treatment plants discharge treated sewage into marsh waters. On a daily basis, it was shown that this marsh removes from flooding waters: 7.7 tons of biological oxygen demand, 4.9 tons of

phosphorus, 4.3 tons of ammonia, and 138 pounds of nitrate. In addition, Tinicum Marsh adds 20 tons of oxygen to the water each day.

Swamps also have the capacity for removing water pollutants. Bottomland forested wetlands along the Alcovy River in Georgia have been shown to filter impurities from flooding waters. Human and chicken wastes grossly pollute the river upstream, but after passing through less than 3 miles of swamp, the river's water quality is significantly improved. The value of the 2,300-acre Alcovy River Swamp for water pollution control was estimated at \$1 million per year (Wharton 1970). In New Jersey, Durand and Zimmer (1982) have demonstrated the capacity of Pine Barrens wetlands to assimilate excess nutrients from adjacent agricultural land and upland development. Rhode Island's wetlands undoubtedly function similarly to these wetlands.

Wetlands also play a valuable role in reducing turbidity of flooding waters. This is especially important for aquatic life and for reducing siltation of ports, harbors, rivers and reservoirs. Removal of sediment load is also valuable because sediments often transport adsorbed nutrients,



**Figure 25.** Relative productivity of wetland ecosystems in relation to other ecosystems (redrawn from Newton 1981). Salt marshes and freshwater marshes are among the world's most productive systems.

pesticides, heavy metals and other toxins which pollute our Nation's waters (Boto and Patrick 1979). Depressional wetlands should retain all of the sediment entering them (Novitzki 1978). In Wisconsin, watersheds with 40 percent coverage by lakes and wetlands had 90 percent less sediments in water than watersheds with no lakes or wetlands (Hindall 1975). Creekbanks of salt marshes typically support more productive vegetation than the marsh interior. Deposition of silt is accentuated at the water-marsh interface, where vegetation slows the velocity of water, causing sediment to drop out of solution. In addition to improving water quality, this process adds nutrients to the creekside marsh which leads to higher plant density and plant productivity (DeLaune, *et al.* 1978).

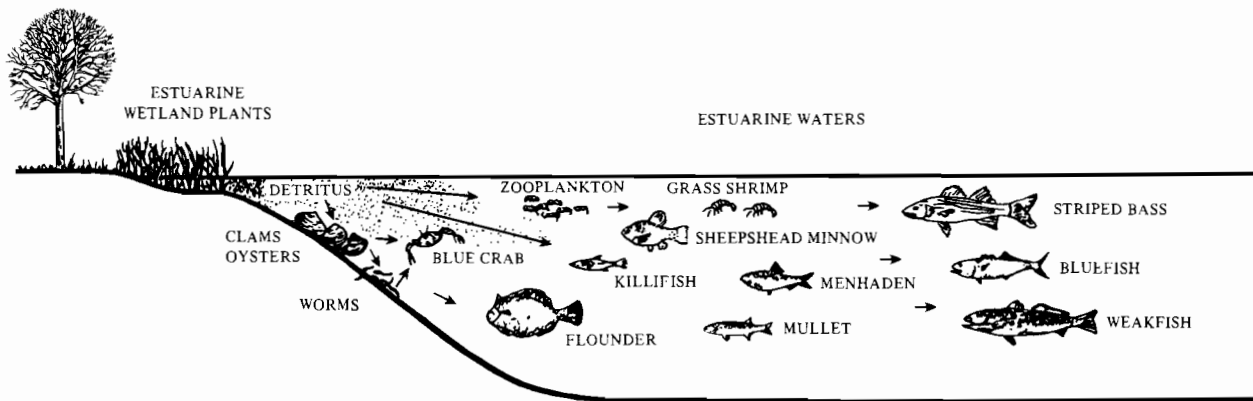
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has investigated the use of marsh vegetation to lower turbidity of dredged disposal runoff and to remove contaminants. In a 50-acre dredged material disposal impoundment near Georgetown, South Carolina, after passing through about 2,000 feet of marsh vegetation, the effluent turbidity was similar to that of the adjacent river (Lee, *et al.* 1976). Wetlands have also been proven to be good filters of nutrients and heavy metal loads in dredged disposal effluents (Windom 1977).

Recently, the ability of wetlands to retain heavy metals has been reported (Banus, *et al.* 1974; Mudroch and Capobianca 1978; Simpson, *et al.* 1983c). Wetland soils have been regarded as primary sinks for heavy metals, while wetland plants may play a more limited role. Waters flowing through urban areas often have heavy concentrations of heavy metals (e.g., cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead, and zinc). The ability of freshwater tidal wetlands along the Delaware River in New Jersey to sequester and hold heavy metals has been documented (Good, *et al.* 1975; Whigham and Simpson 1976; Simpson *et al.* 1983a, 1983b, 1983c). Wetlands along heavily industrialized rivers in Rhode Island probably are retaining various heavy metals also. Additional study is needed to better understand retention mechanisms and capacities in wetlands.

#### Aquatic Productivity

Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world and they may be the highest, rivaling our best cornfields (Figure 25). Wetland plants are particularly efficient converters of solar energy. Through photosynthesis, plants convert sunlight into plant material or biomass and produce oxygen as a by-product. Other mate-





**Figure 26.** Simplified food pathways from estuarine wetland vegetation to commercially and recreationally important fishes and shellfishes.

rials, such as organic matter, nutrients, heavy metals, and sediment, also are captured by wetlands and either stored in the sediment or converted to biomass (Simpson, *et al.* 1983a). This biomass serves as food for a multitude of animals, both aquatic and terrestrial. For example, many waterfowl depend heavily on seeds of marsh plants, while muskrats eat cattail tubers and young shoots. Surprisingly, one of the favorite winter foods of the eastern cottontail is the tender new growth of red maples (Cronan and Brooks 1968).

Although direct grazing of wetland plants may be considerable in freshwater marshes, their major food value to most aquatic organisms is reached upon death when plants break down to form "detritus." This detritus forms the base of an aquatic food web that supports higher consumers, e.g., commercial fishes. This relationship is especially well-documented for coastal areas. Animals like zooplankton, shrimp, snails, clams, worms, killifish, and mullet eat detritus or graze upon the bacteria, fungi, diatoms and protozoa growing on its surfaces (Crow and Macdonald 1979; de la Cruz 1979). Forage fishes (e.g., anchovies, sticklebacks, killifishes, and silversides) and grass shrimp are the primary food for commercial and recreational fishes, including bluefish, flounder, weakfish, and white perch (Sugihara, *et al.* 1979). A simplified food web for estuaries in the Northeast is presented as Figure 26. Thus, wetlands can be regarded as the farmlands of the aquatic environment where great volumes of food are produced annually. The majority of non-marine aquatic animals also depend, either directly or indirectly, on this food source.

### Socio-economic Values

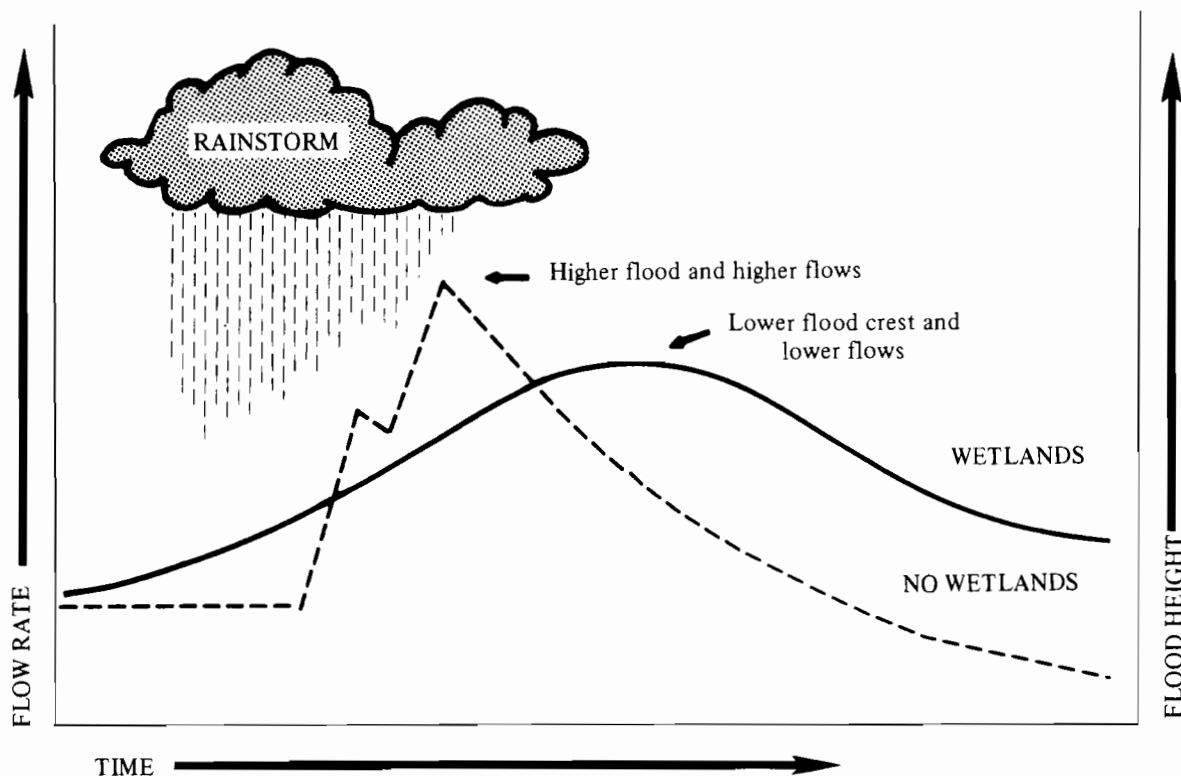
The more tangible benefits of wetlands to society may be considered socio-economic values and they include flood and storm damage protection, erosion control, wa-

ter supply and ground-water recharge, harvest of natural products, livestock grazing and recreation. Since these values provide either dollar savings or financial profit, they are more easily understood by most people.

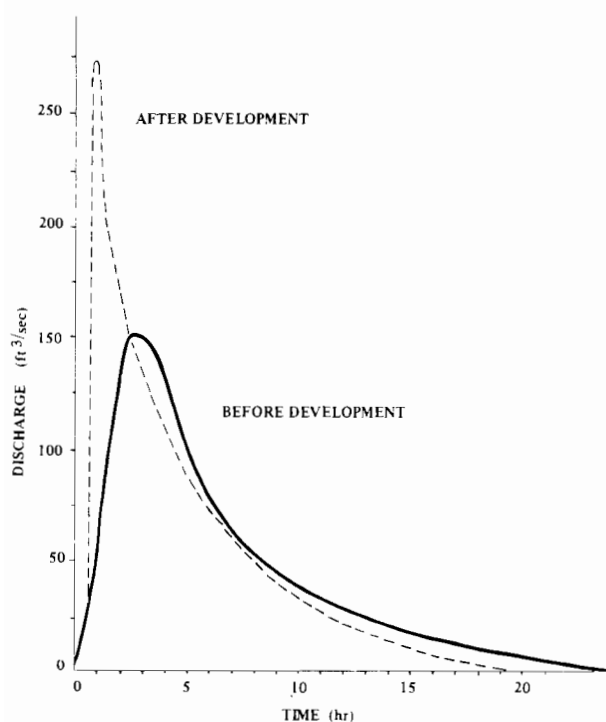
### Flood and Storm Damage Protection

In their natural condition, wetlands serve to temporarily store flood waters, thereby protecting downstream property owners from flood damage. After all, such flooding has been the driving force in creating these wetlands to begin with. This flood storage function also helps to slow the velocity of water and lower wave heights, reducing the water's erosive potential. Rather than having all flood waters flowing rapidly downstream and destroying private property and crops, wetlands slow the flow of water, store it temporarily and slowly release stored waters downstream (Figure 27). Wetlands, thereby, help reduce the peak flood heights as well as delay the flood crest. This becomes increasingly important in urban areas, where development has increased the rate and volume of surface water runoff and the potential for flood damage (Figure 28).

In 1975, 107 people were killed by flood waters in the U.S. and potential property damage for the year was estimated to be \$3.4 billion (U.S. Water Resources Council 1978). Almost half of all flood damage was suffered by farmers as crops and livestock were destroyed and productive land was covered by water or lost to erosion. Approximately 134 million acres of the conterminous U.S. have severe flooding problems (Figure 29). Of this, 2.8 million acres are urban land and 92.8 million acres are agricultural land (U.S. Water Resources Council 1977). Many of these flooded farmlands are wetlands. Although regulations and ordinances required by the Federal Insurance Administration reduce flood losses from urban land, agricultural losses are expected to remain at present levels



**Figure 27.** Wetlands help reduce flood crests and slow flow rates after rainstorms (adapted from Kusler 1983).

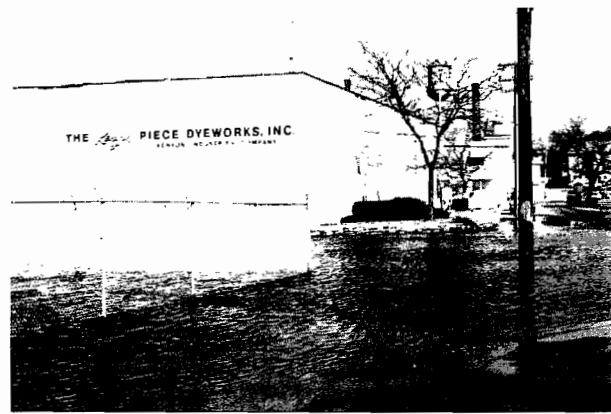


**Figure 28.** Urban development increases peak discharge in rivers. Comparisons of hydrographs for a watershed before and after development (redrawn from Fusillo 1981).

or increase as more wetland is put into crop production. Protection of wetlands is, therefore, an important means to minimizing flood damages in the future.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have recognized the value of wetlands for flood storage in Massachusetts. In the early 1970's, they considered various alternatives to providing flood protection in the lower Charles River watershed near Boston, including: (1) a 55,000 acre-foot reservoir, (2) extensive walls and dikes, and (3) perpetual protection of 8,500 acres of wetland (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1976). If 40 percent of the Charles River wetlands were destroyed, flood damages would have increased by at least \$3 million annually. Loss of all basin wetlands would cause an average annual flood damage cost of \$17 million (Thibodeau and Ostro 1981). The Corps concluded that wetlands protection—"Natural Valley Storage"—was the least-cost solution to future flooding problems. In 1983, they completed acquisition of approximately 8,500 acres of Charles River wetlands for flood protection.

This protective value of wetlands has also been reported for other areas. Undeveloped floodplain wetlands in New Jersey protect against flood damages (Robichaud and Buell 1973). In the Passaic River watershed, annual property losses to flooding approached \$50 million in



**Figure 29.** Wetland destruction accelerates flood damages.

1978 and the Corps of Engineers is considering wetland acquisition as an option to prevent flood damages from escalating in the future (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1979). A Wisconsin study projected that floods may be lowered as much as 80 percent in watersheds with many wetlands compared with similar basins with few or no wetlands (Novitzki 1978). Pothole wetlands in the Devils Lake basin of North Dakota store nearly 75 percent of the total runoff (Ludden, *et al.* 1983).

Rhode Island's wetlands also serve as temporary storage basins for retaining flood waters, thereby reducing potential flood damages. The 3,000-acre Great Swamp, Chapman Swamp and numerous other wetlands provide great flood storage for the Pawcatuck River in Washington County and without these wetlands flooding of downstream uplands would be enormous. The Pawtuxet River system, in marked contrast, has fewer wetlands (many wetlands were filled) and less flood storage area. Consequently, Warwick and Cranston experience serious flooding problems. Annual flood losses in 1978 for the Pawtuxet River basin were about \$1.5 million. Corps of Engineers projections for 1990 suggest that increased urbanization in the basin would raise flood losses to \$3.6 million for a 20-year flood and \$5.5 million for a 50-year flood (F. Golet, pers. comm.).

### Shoreline Erosion Control

Located between watercourses and uplands, wetlands help protect uplands from erosion. Wetland vegetation can reduce shoreline erosion in several ways, including: (1) increasing durability of the sediment through binding with its roots, (2) dampening waves through friction, and (3) reducing current velocity through friction (Dean 1979). This process also helps reduce turbidity and thereby helps improve water quality.

Obviously, trees are good stabilizers of river banks. Their roots bind the soil, making it more resistant to

erosion, while their trunks and branches slow the flow of flooding waters and dampen wave heights. The banks of some rivers have not been eroded for 100 to 200 years due to the presence of trees (Leopold and Wolman 1957; Wolman and Leopold 1957; Sigafos 1964). Among the freshwater grass and grass-like plants, common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.) have been regarded as the best at withstanding wave and current action (Kadlec and Wentz 1974; Seibert 1968). Common three-square (*Scirpus pungens*) often forms fringing marshes along the margins of many Rhode Island lakes and ponds. Along the coast, salt marshes of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) are considered important shoreline stabilizers because of their wave dampening effect (Knudson, *et al.* 1982). While most wetland plants need calm or sheltered water for establishment, they will effectively control erosion once established (Kadlec and Wentz 1974; Garbisch 1977). Wetland vegetation has been successfully planted to reduce erosion along U.S. waters. Willows (*Salix* spp.), alders (*Alnus* spp.), ashes (*Fraxinus* spp.), cottonwoods and poplars (*Populus* spp.), maples (*Acer* spp.), and elms (*Ulmus* spp.) are particularly good stabilizers (Allen 1979). Successful emergent plants include reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), common reed, cattails (*Typha* spp.), and bulrushes in freshwater areas (Hoffman 1977) and smooth cordgrass along the coast (Woodhouse, *et al.* 1976).

### Water Supply

Most wetlands are areas of ground-water discharge and their underlying aquifers may provide sufficient quantities of water for public use. In neighboring Massachusetts, 40 percent to 50 percent of the wetlands may indicate the location of productive underground aquifers—potential sources of drinking water. At least 60 municipalities in the state have public wells in or very near wetlands (Motts and Heeley 1973). Prairie pothole wetlands store water which is important for wildlife and may be used for irrigation and livestock watering by farmers during droughts (Leitch



Figure 30. Cows often graze in wet meadows.

1981). These situations may hold true for Rhode Island and other states. Wetland protection and ground-water pollution control could be instrumental in helping to solve current and future water supply problems.

### Ground-water Recharge

Ground-water recharge potential of wetlands varies according to numerous factors, including wetland type, geographic location, season, soil type, water table location and precipitation. In general, most researchers believe that most wetlands do not serve as significant ground-water recharge sites (Carter, *et al.* 1979). A few studies, however, have shown that certain wetland types may help recharge ground-water supplies by adding water to the underlying aquifer or water table. Shrub wetlands in the Pine Barrens may contribute to ground-water recharge (Ballard 1979). Depressional wetlands, like cypress domes in Florida and prairie potholes in the Dakotas, may also contribute to ground-water recharge (Odum, *et al.* 1975; Stewart and Kantrud 1972).

Floodplain wetlands also may do this through bank water storage (Mundorff 1950; Klopatek 1978). In urban areas where municipal wells pump water from streams and adjacent wetlands, "induced infiltration" may draw in surface water from wetlands into public wells. This type of human-induced recharge has been observed in Burlington, Massachusetts (Mulica 1977). These studies and others suggest that certain wetlands do help recharge ground-water and that additional research is needed to better assess the role of different types of wetlands in performing this function.

### Harvest of Natural Products

A variety of natural products are produced by wetlands including timber, fish and shellfish, wildlife, peat moss,

cranberries, blueberries, and wild rice. Wetland grasses are hayed in many places for winter livestock feed. During other seasons, livestock graze directly in numerous New England wetlands (Figure 30).

In the 49 continental states, an estimated 82 million acres of commercial forested wetlands exist (Johnson 1979). These forests provide timber for such uses as home construction, furniture, newspapers and firewood. Most of these forests lie east of the Rockies, where oak, gum, cypress, elm, ash and cottonwood are most important. The standing value of southern wetland forests is \$8 billion. These southern forests have been harvested for over 200 years without noticeable degradation, thus they can be expected to produce timber for many years to come, unless converted to other uses. Rhode Island's forested wetlands provide timber for fuelwood and building construction. Braiewa (1983) reported on the biomass and fuelwood production of red maple stands in the state.

Many wetland-dependent fishes and wildlife are also utilized by society. Commercial fishermen and trappers make a living from these resources. From 1956 to 1975, about 60 percent of the U.S. commercial landings were fishes and shellfishes that depend on wetlands (Peters, *et al.* 1979). Nationally, major commercial species associated with wetlands are menhaden, salmon, shrimp, blue crab and alewife from coastal waters and catfish, carp and buffalo from inland areas. In Rhode Island, the 1985 commercial harvest of wetland-dependent coastal fishes (i.e., flounders, bluefish, weakfish, striped bass, shad, and white perch) had a value of \$3.25 million, while the hard-shell clam or quahog harvest alone was valued at more than \$14 million according to National Marine Fisheries Service commercial catch and value data. The fisheries value of Rhode Island's coastal ponds is discussed by Lee (1980). Recreational fishing and shellfishing are important activities for many Rhode Island residents.

Nationally, furs from beaver, muskrat, mink, nutria, and otter yielded roughly \$35.5 million in 1976 (Demms and Pursley 1978). Louisiana is the largest fur-producing state and nearly all furs come from wetland animals. In Rhode Island, muskrat harvest was valued at near \$60,000 in 1980 and only about \$6,500 in 1988 due to declining pelt prices (L. Suprock and M. Lapisky, pers. comm.). Currently, muskrats are an under-harvested resource.

### Recreation and Aesthetics

Many recreational activities take place in and around wetlands. Hunting and fishing are popular sports. Waterfowl hunting is a major activity in wetlands, but big game hunting is also important locally. In 1980, 5.3 million people spent \$638 million on hunting waterfowl and other migratory birds (U.S. Department of the Interior and Department of Commerce 1982). Moreover, nearly all freshwater fishing is dependent on wetlands. In 1975 alone, sportfishermen spent \$13.1 billion to catch wetland-dependent fishes in the U.S. (Peters, *et al.* 1979). Fishing was reported to be the second most popular leisure sport in America in a 1985 Gallup Poll (Sport Fishing Institute 1986). Fishing was the top activity for adult men with 44 percent participating. Since 1977, there has been a steady increase in the percent of Americans fishing.

Other recreation in wetlands is largely non-consumptive and involves activities like hiking, nature observation and photography, and canoeing and other boating. Many people simply enjoy the beauty and sounds of nature and spend their leisure time walking or boating in or near wetlands and observing plant and animal life. This aesthetic value is extremely difficult to place a dollar value upon, although people spend a great deal of money traveling to places to enjoy the scenery and to take pictures of these scenes and plant and animal life. In 1980, 28.8 million people (17 percent of the U.S. population) took special trips to observe, photograph or feed wildlife. Moreover, about 47 percent of all Americans showed an active interest in wildlife around their home (U.S. De-

partment of the Interior and Department of Commerce 1982).

### Summary

Marshes, swamps and other wetlands are assets to society in their natural state. They provide numerous products for human use and consumption, protect private property and provide recreational and aesthetic appreciation opportunities. Wetlands may also have other values yet unknown to society. For example, a microorganism from Pine Barrens swamps of southern New Jersey has been recently discovered to have great value to the drug industry. In searching for a new source of antibiotics, the Squibb Institute examined soils from around the world and found that only one contained microbes suitable for producing a new family of antibiotics. From a Pine Barrens swamp microorganism, scientists at the Squibb Institute have developed a new line of antibiotics which will be used to cure diseases not affected by present antibiotics (Moore 1981). This represents a significant medical discovery. If these wetlands were destroyed or grossly polluted, this discovery might not have been possible.

Destruction or alteration of wetlands eliminates or minimizes their values. Drainage of wetlands, for example, eliminates all the beneficial effects of the wetlands on water quality and directly contributes to flooding problems (Lee, *et al.* 1975). While the wetland landowner can derive financial profit from some of the values mentioned, the general public receives the vast majority of wetland benefits through flood and storm damage control, erosion control, water quality improvement and fish and wildlife resources. It is, therefore, in the public's best interest to protect wetlands to preserve these values for themselves and future generations. Since over half of the Nation's original wetlands have already been destroyed, the remaining wetlands are even more valuable as public resources.

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## CHAPTER 8.

### Wetland Protection

#### Introduction

A variety of techniques are available to protect our remaining wetlands, including land-use regulations, direct acquisition, conservation easements, tax incentives, public education, and the efforts of private individuals and corporations. These techniques are discussed in numerous sources including Kusler (1983), Burke and others (1989), and Rusmore and others (1982).

#### Wetland Regulation

Several Federal and state laws or programs regulate certain uses of Rhode Island wetlands. The more significant ones include the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and the Clean Water Act of 1977 at the Federal level and the Coastal Resources Management Program (1977) and Fresh Water Wetlands Act of 1971 at the state level. Key points of these laws are outlined in Table 21. In addition, Executive Order 11990—"Protection of Wetlands"—requires Federal agencies to develop guidelines to minimize destruction and degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance wetland values.

The foundations of Federal wetland regulations are Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Federal permits for many types of construction in wetlands are required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but normal agricultural and silvicultural activities are exempt from permit requirements. The Service plays an active role in the permit process by reviewing permit applications and making recommendations based on environmental considerations, under authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Although the Federal laws in combination apply to virtually all of Rhode Island's wetlands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 1982 regulations for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act reduced its effectiveness for protecting wetlands. In particular, the widespread use of "nationwide permits" and the lack of strong enforcement were major weak points. Under the nationwide permit system, there was no required reporting or monitoring system, consequently there was no record of wetland loss and no effort to promote environmental or other public interest concerns. In Rhode Island, many wetlands lie above designated headwaters or exist in isolated basins and they were not protected under the 1982 regulations. Numerous law-

suits were filed nationwide against the Corps by concerned environmental organizations over the 1982 regulatory changes. Under an out-of-court settlement agreement (National Wildlife Federation vs. Marsh), the Corps issued regulations in November 1986 requiring closer Federal and state review of proposals to fill wetlands. Implementation of these new regulations needs to be monitored to assess their effectiveness of protecting wetlands.

Wetlands are regulated by the State of Rhode Island under two programs: (1) Coastal Resources Management Program and (2) Fresh Water Wetlands Program. The former program is administered by the Coastal Resources Management Council and deals with a wide range of coastal resources of which coastal wetlands are but one part (Olsen and Seavey 1983). The latter program is administered by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM). Both programs require permits for regulated activities in these wetlands.

Besides the Federal and state permit programs, Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act gives the state another powerful tool to protect wetlands. Any Federal permit or license which may involve a discharge to waters of the United States requires a Section 401 water quality certification from the state. The state reviews these permits to see if they meet state water quality standards. If they do not, then 401 certification is denied and the Federal permit cannot be issued. Consequently, DEM has the authority to issue, condition, waive or deny water quality certification for Federal permits including Section 404 permits. This program provides the state with another powerful tool to protect wetlands.

#### Wetland Acquisition

Wetlands may also be protected by direct acquisition or conservation easements. Many wetlands are owned by public agencies or by private environmental organizations, although the majority are privately-owned.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System was established to preserve important migratory bird wetlands at strategic locations across the country. Four National Wildlife Refuges are located in Rhode Island: Trustom Pond (642 acres), Ninigret (408 acres), Sachuest Point (242 acres), Block Island (46



**Table 21.** Summary of primary Federal and state laws requiring permits for wetland alteration in Rhode Island.

Name of Law/Regulation	Administering Agency	Types of Wetlands Regulated	Regulated Activities	Exemptions	Comments
Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Tidal wetlands below the mean high water mark; nontidal wetlands below the ordinary high water mark	Structures and/or work in or affecting the navigable U.S., including dredging and filling	None specified	July 22, 1982 Regulations; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state wildlife agency review permit applications for environmental impacts by authority of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.
Clean Water Act of 1977 (Section 404; formerly Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under guidelines developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Wetlands contiguous with all waters of the U.S.	Discharge of dredge or fill material	Normal farming, silviculture, and ranching activities (including minor drainage); maintenance of existing structures; construction or maintenance of farm ponds, irrigation ditches or maintenance of irrigation ditches; construction of temporary sedimentation basins; construction or maintenance of farm roads, forest roads or temporary mining roads (within certain specifications)	July 22, 1982 Regulations; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversight; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state wildlife agency review proposed work for environmental impacts by authority of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Permits cannot be issued without State certification that proposed discharge meets State water quality standards. Individual permits are required for specific work in many wetlands; regional permits for certain categories of activities in specified geographic areas; nation-wide permits for 25 specific activities and for discharges into wetlands above headwaters or not part of surface tributary system to interstate or navigable waters of U.S. State takeover of permit program is encouraged. New regulations were issued in October 1984.
State of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Mgmt. Program (as amended June 28, 1983)	Coastal Resources Management Council	Coastal wetlands (salt marshes and contiguous freshwater or brackish wetlands)	In Type 1 (conservation) and Type 2 (low-intensity use) waters, all alterations are prohibited except minimal alterations required by construction or repair of an approved structural shoreline protection facility. In type 2 waters, minor disturbances associated with residential docks and walkways meeting certain standards are permitted. In other waters (types 3, 4, 5, and 6—high-intensity boating, multipurpose, commercial/recreational harbors, and industrial waterfronts/commercial navigation channels, respectively), salt marshes not designated for preservation may be altered if (a) the alteration is made to accommodate a designated priority use for that water area, (b) the applicant has examined all reasonable alternatives and the Council has determined that the selected alternative is the most reasonable, and (c) only the minimum alteration necessary to support the priority use is made.	“Special exceptions” are granted for activities of compelling public purpose (special requirements) that minimize environmental impacts and for which no reasonable alternative is available (subject to proper notice, public hearings and necessary conditions)	Type 1 through 6 waters are shown on maps and coastal wetlands designated for preservation in type 3, 4, 5, and 6 waters are also shown on maps. Field determinations of wetland boundaries are required. The Council may require creation of replacement salt marsh of similar size for any alterations.
Fresh Water Wetlands Act (1971, 1979 amendments)	Department of Environmental Management	Fresh water wetlands (e.g., marshes—1 acre or larger in size; swamps—3 acres or more; ponds—more than ¼ acre)	Drain, fill, excavate, dam, dike, or divert water, place trash, garbage, sewage, highway runoff, drainage ditch effluents and other materials and effluents upon, change or otherwise alter the character of any fresh water wetland	None specified	Regulations also pertain to activities on uplands within 50' of wetland. Activities in rivers and on flood plains and river banks are regulated as fresh water wetlands.

acres), and Pettaquamscutt Cove (26 acres). The State of Rhode Island possesses much wetland acreage. Many wildlife management areas include some large wetland complexes, such as Great Swamp (South Kingstown/Kingston), Burlingame (Charlestown), and Blackhut (Burrillville). Wetlands are also located in various state parks and other conservation areas in Rhode Island (e.g., Audubon Society's Norman Bird Sanctuary in Middletown).

## Future Actions

In an effort to maintain and enhance remaining wetlands, many opportunities are available to both government and the private sector. Their joint efforts will determine the future course of our Nation's wetlands. Major options have been outlined below:

### Government Options

1. Strengthen Federal, State and local wetlands protection.
2. Ensure proper implementation of existing laws and policies through adequate staffing and improved surveillance and enforcement programs.
3. Increase wetland acquisition in vulnerable areas.
4. Remove government subsidies for wetland drainage.
5. Scrutinize cost-benefit analyses and justifications for flood control projects that involve channelization or other alteration of wetlands and watercourses.
6. Provide tax incentives to private landowners to encourage wetland preservation.
7. Increase support for the Water Bank and Conservation Easement Programs.
8. Increase the number of marsh creation projects, especially related to mitigation for unavoidable wetlands losses by government-sponsored water resource projects; this should include restoration of degraded or former wetlands.
9. Enhance existing wetlands through improving water quality and establishing buffer zones.
10. Monitor wetland changes especially with refer-

ence to effectiveness of State and Federal wetland protection efforts and periodically update the National Wetlands Inventory in problem areas.

11. Increase public awareness of wetland values and the status of wetlands through various media and environmental education programs.
12. Conduct research to increase our knowledge of wetland values and ecology.

### Private Options:

1. Rather than drain or fill wetlands, seek more environmentally compatible, alternative uses of those areas, e.g., timber harvest, waterfowl production, fur harvest, hay and forage, wild rice production, and hunting leases.
2. Donate wetlands to private or public conservation agencies for tax purposes.
3. Maintain wetlands as open space and seek appropriate tax relief.
4. When selling property that includes wetlands, consider incorporating into the property transfer, a deed restriction or a covenant preventing future alteration and destruction of the wetlands and an appropriate buffer zone.
5. Work in concert with government agencies to help educate the public on wetland values, threats, and losses, for example.
6. Construct ponds in upland areas and manage them for wetland and aquatic species.
7. Purchase Federal and State duck stamps which support wetland acquisition.
8. Support in various ways, public and private efforts to protect and enhance wetlands.

Public and private cooperation is needed to secure a promising future for our remaining wetlands. In Rhode Island, as competition for wetlands between development and environmental interests increases, ways have to be found to achieve economic growth, while minimizing adverse environmental impacts. This is vital to preserving wetland values for our future generations and for fish and wildlife species.

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**Appendix. List of Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands**

## Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands

GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	R I I N D	GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	R I I N D
ABIES BALSAMEA (L.) MILL		FAC	AMARANTHUS RETROFLEXUS L.		FACU
ACALYPHA RHOMBOIDEA RAF.		FACU-	AMARANTHUS SPINOSUS L.		FACU
ACALYPHA VIRGINICA L.		FACU-	AMBROSIA ARTEMISIIFOLIA L.		FACU
ACER NEGUNDO L.		FAC+	AMBROSIA TRIFIDA L.		FAC-
ACER PENNSYLVANICUM L.		FACU	AMELANCHIER ARBOREA (MICHX. F.) FERN.		FAC
ACER RUBRUM L. VAR. TRILOBUM TORR. & GRAY EX K. KOCH		FAC+	AMELANCHIER CANADENSIS (L.) MEDIC.		FACU
ACER RUBRUM L. VAR. TRILOBUM TORR. & GRAY EX K. KOCH		FACU	AMELANCHIER SPICATA (LAM.) K. KOCH		FACU-
ACER SACCHARINUM L.		FACU-	AMOPHILA BREVILOLATA FERNALD		FACU-
ACER SPICATUM LAM.		FACU-	AMORPHA FRUITICOSA L.		FAC
ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM L.		FACU	AMPHICARPAE BRACTEATA (L.) FERNALD		FAC
ACORUS CALAMUS L.		OBL	ANDROMEDA GLAUCOPHYLLA LINK		OBL
ADIANTUM PEDATUM L.		FAC-	ANDROMEDA POLIFOLIA L.		FAC
ALGODODIUM PODAGRARIA L.		FACU	ANDROPOGON GERARDII VITMAN		FAC+
AGALINIS MARITIMA (RAF.) RAF.		FACU	ANDROPOGON GLOMERATUS (WALTER) B. S. P.		FACU
AGALINIS OBTUSIFOLIA (RAF.) PENNELL		FACU	ANDROPOGON VIRGINICUS L.		FACU
AGALINIS PAUPERGULA (GRAY) BRITTON		FAC+	ANEMONE QUINQUEFOLIA L.		FACU
AGALINIS PURPUREA (L.) RAF.		FAC-	ANEMONE RIPARIA FERNALD		FACU
AGALINIS TENUIFOLIA (VAHL) RAF.		FAC	ANEMONE VIRGINIANA L.		NI
AGERATINA ALTISSIMA (L.) R. M. KING & H. ROB.		FACU-	ANGELICA ATROPURPUREA L.		OBL
AGERATINA ALTISSIMA (L.) R. M. KING & H. ROB.		FACU	ANGELICA LUCIDA L.		FAC*
AGRIMONIA STRIATA MICHX.		FACU-	ANGELICA LUCIDA L.		FACU-
AGROPYRON CANINUM BEAUV.		FACU-	ANTHOXANTHUM ODORATUM L.		FACU
AGROPYRON REPENS (L.) BEAUV.		FACU	APIOS AMERICANA MEDIC.		FACU
AGROPYRON TRACHYCAULUM (LINK) MALTE EX H. F. LEWIS		FACU	APOCYNUM CANNABINUM L.		FACU
AGROSTIS ALBA L.		NI	AQUILEGIA CANADENSIS L.		FAC
AGROSTIS CANINA L.		FAC	ARABIS DRUMMONDII GRAY		FACU
AGROSTIS GIGANTEA ROTH		FACU	ARALIA NUDICAULIS L.		FACU
AGROSTIS HYEMALIS (WALTER) B. S. P.		FACU	ARALIA SPINOSA L.		FACU
AGROSTIS PERENNANS (WALTER) TUCKERMAN		FAC	ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URSI (L.) SPRENG.		FAC
AGROSTIS SCABRA WILLD.		FACH	ARENARIA SERPYLLIFOLIA L.		NI
ALANTHUS ALTISSIMA (MILL.) SWINGLE		NI	ARETHUSA BULBOSA L.		FAC
ALETRIS FARINOSA L.		FAC	ARISAEMA DRACONTIUM (L.) SCHOTT		FACH
ALISMA PLANTAGO-AQUATICA L.		OBL	ARISAEMA TRIPHYLLUM (L.) SCHOTT		FACH-
ALISMA SUBCORDATUM RAF.		FACU	ARMORACIA RUSTICANA P. GAERTN.		NI
ALLIUM CANADENSE L.		FACU	ARMORACIA RUSTICANA P. GAERTN.		FACH
ALLIUM VINEALE L.		FACU+	ARONIA ARBUTIFOLIA (L.) ELLIOTT		FAC
ALNUS GLUTINOSA (L.) GAERTN.		FACU-	ARONIA MELANOCARPA (MICHX.) ELLIOTT		FACU
ALNUS INCANA (L.) ROENCH		NI	ARONIA PRUNIFOLIA (MARSH.) REHDER.		FACU
ALNUS MARITIMA (MARSH.) MUHL.		FACU	ARTEMISIA BIENNIS WILLD.		FACU
ALNUS RUGOSA (DU ROI) SPRENG.		FACU-	ARTEMISIA BIENNIS WILLD.		FACU
ALNUS SERRULATA (AIT.) WILLD.		FACU-	ARTEMISIA STELLERANA BESSER		FACU*
ALOPECURUS GENTICULATUS L.		OBL	ASCLEPIAS EXALTATA L.		OBL
ALOPECURUS MYOSUROIDES HUDS.		OBL	ASCLEPIAS INCARNATA L.		FACU
ALOPECURUS PRATENSIS L.		FACU	ASCLEPIAS PURPURASCENS L.		FACU
ALTHAEA OFFICINALIS L.		FACU	ASPARAGUS OFFICINALIS L.		FACU
AMARANTHUS ALBUS L.		FACU+	ASPLENIUM PLATYNEURON (L.) OAKES		FAC
AMARANTHUS BLITOIDES S. WATS.		NI	ASTER DUMOSUS L.		FACU
AMARANTHUS CANNABINUS (L.) SAUER		OBL	ASTER ERICOIDES L.		FACU
AMARANTHUS PUMILINUS RAF.		FACH*	ASTER JUNCIFORMIS RYDB.		OBL
			ASTER LATERIFLORUS (L.) BRITTON		FACH-
			ASTER LUCIDULUS (GRAY) WIEGAND		FACH
			ASTER MEMORABILIS AIT.		FACH+

Symbology: OBL (Obligate), FACW (Facultative Wetland), FAC (Facultative), FACH (Facultative Upland), NI (no indicator assigned), \* (limited ecological information), + (higher portion of frequency range), and - (lower portion of frequency range). See discussion of hydrophyte definition and concept in Chapter 6.

Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands (Continued)

GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	RI IND	GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	RI IND
ASTER NOVAE-ANGLIAE	L.	FACH-	CABOMBA CAROLINIANA	GRAY	OBL
ASTER NOVI-BELGII	L.	FACH+	CAKILE EDENTULA	(BIGEL.) HOOK.	FACU
ASTER PRAEALTIUS	POIR.	FACH	CALAMAGROSTIS CANADENSIS	(MICHX.) BEAUV.	FACH+
ASTER PUNICEUS	L.	OBL	CALAMAGROSTIS CINNOIDES	(MUHL.) BARTON	OBL
ASTER RADULA	AIT.	OBL	CALLA PALUSTRIS	L.	OBL
ASTER SIMPLEX	WILLD.	FACH	CALLITRICHE HETEROPHYLLA	PURSH	OBL
ASTER SUBULATUS	MICHX.	OBL	CALLITRICHE VERNA	L.	OBL
ASTER TENUIFOLIUS	L.	FACH	CALLUNA VULGARIS	(L.) HULL	FACH*
ASTER TRADESCANTII	L.	FACH	CALOPOGON TUBEROSUS	(L.) B. S. P.	FACH+
ASTER UMBELLATUS	MILL.	FACH	CALTHA PALUSTRIS	L.	OBL
ASTER VIRGINEUS	LAM.	FACH+	CALYSTEGIA SEPIUM	(L.) R. BR.	FACH-
ASTER X BLAKEI	(T. PORTER) HOUSE	NI	CAMPANULA APARINOIDES	PURSH	OBL
ASTER X LANCEOLATUS	WILLD.	FAC	CANNABIS SATIVA	L.	FACU
ATHYRIUM FILIX-FEMINA	(L.) ROTH	FAC	CAPSELLA BURSA-PASTORIS	(L.) MEDIC.	FACU
ATHYRIUM THELYPTEROIDES	(MICHX.) DESV.	FAC	CARDAMINE BULBOSA	(SCHREB. EX MUHL.) B. S. P.	OBL
ATRIPLEX ARENARIA	NUTT.	FAC-	CARDAMINE HIRSUTA	L.	FACU
ATRIPLEX GLABRIUSCULA	EDMONST.	NI	CARDAMINE PARVIFLORA	L.	FACU
ATRIPLEX PATULA	L.	FACH	CARDAMINE PENNSYLVANICA	MUHL. EX WILLD.	OBL
BACCHARIS HALIMIFOLIA	L.	FACH	CARDAMINE PRATENSIS	L.	OBL
BARBAREA VULGARIS	R. BR.	FACH	CAREX ABSCONDITA	MACKENZ.	FAC
BARTONIA PANICULATA	(MICHX.) MUHL.	FACU	CAREX ALBOLUTESCENS	SCHWEINITZ	FACH
BARTONIA VIRGINICA	(L.) B. S. P.	OBL	CAREX AMPHIBOLA	STEUD.	FAC
BERBERIS THUNBERGII	DC.	FACH	CAREX ANNETENS	(BICKN.) BICKN.	FACH+
BERBERIS VULGARIS	L.	FACU	CAREX ATLANTICA	L. H. BAILEY	FACH
BETULA ALLEGANIENSIS	BRITTON	FAC	CAREX AUREA	NUTT.	FACH
BETULA LENTA	L.	FACU	CAREX BICKNELLII	BRITTON	FACU
BETULA NIGRA	L.	FACH	CAREX BLANDA	DEWEY	FAC
BETULA PAPHYRIFERA	MARSHALL	FACH	CAREX BROMOIDES	SCHKUHR	FACH
BETULA POPULIFOLIA	MARSHALL	FACU	CAREX BRUNNESCENS	(PERS.) POIR.	FACH
BIDENS CERNUA	L.	OBL	CAREX BULLATA	SCHKUHR	FACH
BIDENS COMOSA	(GRAY) WIEGAND	FACH+	CAREX BUXBAUMII	HAHLENB.	FACH
BIDENS CONNATA	MUHL. EX HILLD.	OBL	CAREX CANESCENS	L.	OBL
BIDENS CORONATA	(L.) BRITTON	FACH	CAREX CEPHALOTIDEA	DEWEY	FACH+
BIDENS DISCOIDEA	(TORR. & GRAY) BRITTON	OBL	CAREX CEPHALOPHORA	MUHL. EX WILLD.	FACU
BIDENS EATONI	FERNALD	FACH	CAREX COLLINSII	NUTT.	OBL
BIDENS FRONDOSA	L.	OBL	CAREX COMOSA	BOOTT	OBL
BIDENS LAEVIS	(L.) B. S. P.	OBL	CAREX CONOIDEA	SCHKUHR	OBL
BIDENS TRIPARTITA	L.	FACH+	CAREX CRANEI	DEWEY	FACU
BOEMERIA CYLINDRICA	(L.) SWARTZ	FACH	CAREX GRANFORDII	FERNALD	FACH
BOLTONIA ASTEROIDES	(L.) L'HER.	FAC	CAREX GRINII	LAM.	FAC
BOTRYCHIUM DISSECTUM	SPRENG.	FACH	CAREX CRISTATELLA	BRITTON	FACH
BOTRYCHIUM LANCEOLATUM	(S. G. Gmel.) RUPR.	FACH	CAREX CRYPTOLEPIS	MACKENZ.	FACH
BOTRYCHIUM LUNARIA	(L.) SWARTZ	FACH	CAREX DEBILIS	MICHX.	OBL
BOTRYCHIUM MATRICARITIFOLIUM	A. BRAUN	FACU	CAREX DEWYANA	SCHWEINITZ	FACU
BOTRYCHIUM SIMPLEX	E. HITCHC.	FACU	CAREX DIANDRA	SCHRANK	FACU
BOTRYCHIUM VIRGINIANUM	(L.) SWARTZ	FACU	CAREX ECHINATA	MURRAY	OBL
BRASENIA SCHREBERI	J. F. Gmel.	OBL	CAREX EXILIS	DEWEY	OBL*
BRIZA MEDIA	L.	FAC	CAREX FLAVA	L.	OBL
BROMUS CILIATUS	L.	FACH	CAREX FOENEA	HILLD.	OBL
BROMUS DUDLEYI	FERNALD	FACH+	CAREX GRACILLIMA	SCHWEINITZ	NI
BROMUS LATIGLUMIS	(SHEAR) HITCHC.	FACH	CAREX HAYDENII	DEWEY	FACU*
BULBOSTYLIS CAPILLARIS	(L.) C. B. CLARKE	FACU			OBL

Symbology: OBL (Obligate), FACW (Facultative Wetland), FAC (Facultative), FACU (Facultative Upland), NI (no indicator assigned), \* (limited ecological information), + (higher portion of frequency range), and - (lower portion of frequency range). See discussion of hydrophyte definition and concept in Chapter 6.

## Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands (Continued)

GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL-AUTHOR	RIIND	GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL-AUTHOR	RIIND
CAREX HORMATHODES FERNALD	OBL	CASSIA HERCARGA FERNALD	FAC
CAREX HOWEI MACKENZ.	OBL	CASSIA NICTITANS L.	FACU-
CAREX HYSTERICINA MUHL. EX WILLD.	OBL	CASTILLEJA COCCINEA (L.) SPRENG.	FAC
CAREX INTERIOR L.H. BAILEY	OBL	CELASTRUS SCANDENS L.	FACU-
CAREX INTUMESCENTS RUDGE	FACH+	CELTIS OCCIDENTALIS L.	FACU-
CAREX LACUSTRIS WILLD.	OBL	CENTAURIUM UMBELLATUM GILIB. EX FERNALD	FAC-
CAREX LAEVIVAGINATA (KUEKENTH.) MACKENZ.	OBL	CEPHALANTHUS OCCIDENTALIS L.	OBL
CAREX LASIOCARPA EHRH.	OBL	CERASTIUM VULGATUM L.	FACU-
CAREX LAXIFLORA LAM.	FACU*	CERATOPHYLLUM DEMERSUM L.	OBL
CAREX LEPIDOCARPA TAUSCH	OBL	CERATOPHYLLUM MURICATUM CHAM.	OBL
CAREX LEPTALEA WAHLENB.	OBL	CHAMAECYPARIS THYOIDES (L.) B. S. P.	OBL
CAREX LIMOSA L.	OBL	CHAMAEDAPHNE CALYCVLATA (L.) MOENCH	OBL
CAREX LONGII MACKENZ.	OBL	CHELONE GLABRA L.	OBL
CAREX LUPULINA MUHL. EX WILLD.	OBL	CHENOPODIUM ALBUM L.	FACU+
CAREX LURIDA WAHLENB.	OBL	CHENOPODIUM AMBROSTOIDES L.	FACU
CAREX MEADII DEWEY	FAC	CHENOPODIUM GLAUCUM L.	FACH-
CAREX NIGRA (L.) REICHARD	FACH+	CHENOPODIUM LEPTOPHYLLUM (MOQ.) NUTT. EX S. WATS.	FAC
CAREX NORMALIS MACKENZ.	FACU	CHENOPODIUM RUBRUM L.	FACH
CAREX NOVAE-ANGLIAE SCHWEINITZ	FACU*	CHRYSOSPLENIUM AMERICANUM SCHWEINITZ	OBL
CAREX PAUPERCVLA MICHX.	OBL	CICUTA BULBIFERA L.	OBL
CAREX POLYMORPHA MUHL.	FACU	CICUTA MACULATA L.	OBL
CAREX PRASINA WAHLENB.	OBL	CINNA ARUNDINACEA L.	FACH+
CAREX PSEUDOCYPERUS L.	OBL	CIRCAEA ALPINA L.	FACH
CAREX RETRORSA SCHWEINITZ	FACH+	CIRCAEA LUTETIANA L.	FACU
CAREX ROSTRATA J. STOKES	OBL	CIRSIUM ARVENSE (L.) SCOP.	FACU
CAREX SCABRATA SCHWEINITZ	OBL	CIRSIUM HORRIDULUM MICHX.	FACU-
CAREX SCHWEINITZII DEWEY	OBL	CIRSIUM MUTICUM MICHX.	OBL
CAREX SCOPARIA SCHKUHRR. EX WILLD.	FACH	CIRSIUM VULGARE (SAVI) TENORE	FACU-
CAREX SEORSA E. C. HOME	FACH	CLADIUM HARISSOIDES (MUHL.) TORR.	OBL
CAREX SPARGANIOIDES MUHL. EX WILLD.	FACU	CLAYTONIA VIRGINICA L.	FACU
CAREX SQUARROSA L.	FACH	CLEMATIS VIRGINIANA L.	FAC
CAREX STRAMINEA WILLD.	OBL	CLETHRA ALNIFOLIA L.	FAC+
CAREX STRICTA LAM.	OBL	CLINTONIA BOREALIS (AIT.) RAF.	FAC
CAREX SWANII (FERNALD) MACKENZ.	FACU	COELOGLOSSUM VIRIDE (L.) HARTM.	FACU
CAREX TENERA DEWEY	FAC	COLLINSOWIA CANADENSIS L.	FAC+
CAREX TORTA BOOTH	FACH+	CORANDRA UMBELLATA (L.) NUTT.	FACU-
CAREX TRIBULOIDES WAHLENB.	OBL	COMELINA COMMUNIS L.	FAC-
CAREX TRISPERRMA DEWEY	OBL	COMIUM MACULATUM L.	FACH
CAREX TUCKERMANII BOOTH	OBL	COPTIS TRIFOLIA (L.) SALISB.	FACH
CAREX VESICARIA L.	OBL	CORALLORRHIZA MACULATA (RAF.) RAF.	FACU
CAREX VULPINOIDEA MICHX.	OBL	CORALLORRHIZA TRIFIDA CHAT.	FACH
CAREX WALTERANA L.H. BAILEY	OBL	COREOPSIS LANGEOLATA L.	FACU
CAREX WIEGANDII MACKENZ.	OBL	COREOPSIS ROSEA NUTT.	FACH
CAREX X ALATA TORR.	OBL	COREOPSIS TINCTORIA NUTT.	FAC-
CAREX X STIPATA MUHL. EX WILLD.	OBL	CORISPERNUM HYSSOPIFOLIUM L.	FACU
CARPINUS CAROLINIANA WALTER	FAC	CORNUS ANOMUM MILL.	FACH
CARYA CORDIFORMIS (WANGENH.) K. KOCH	FACU+	CORNUS CANADENSIS L.	FACH
CARYA GLABRA (MILL.) SWEET	FACU-	CORNUS FLORIDA L.	FAC-
CARYA LACINIOSA (MICHX. F.) LOUD.	FAC	CORNUS FOEMINA MILL.	FACU-
CARYA OVALIS (WANGENH.) SARG.	NI	CORNUS STOLONIFERA MICHX.	FAC
CARYA OVATA (MILL.) K. KOCH	FACU-	CORYLUS AMERICANA WALTER	FACH+
CASSIA FASCICULATA MICHX.	FACU	CORYLUS CORNUTA MARSHALL	FACU-

Symbology: OBL (Obligate), FACW (Facultative Wetland), FAC (Facultative), FACU (Facultative Upland), NI (no indicator assigned), \* (limited ecological information), + (higher portion of frequency range), and - (lower portion of frequency range). See discussion of hydrophyte definition and concept in Chapter 6.

Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands (Continued)

GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	R I I N D	GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	R I I N D
GRATAEGUS GRIS-GALLI L.		FACU	DRYOPTERIS X TRIPLOIDEA WHERRY		FAC
GRATAEGUS PHAENOPYRUM (L.F.) MEDIC.		FAC	DULICHUM ARUNDINACEUM (L.) BRITTON		OBL
CRYPTOTAENIA CANADENSIS (L.) DC.		FAC	ECHINOCHLOA CRUSGALLI (L.) BEAUV.		FACU
CUPHEA VISCOSISSIMA JACQ.		FAC-	ECHINOCHLOA MURICATA (BEAUV.) FERNALD		FACM+
CYPERUS ARISTATUS ROTTB.		FACM+	ECHINOCHLOA WALTERI (PURSH) A. HELLER		FACM+
CYPERUS DENTATUS TORR.		FAC	ECHINOCYSTIS LOBATA (MICHX.) TORR. & GRAY		FAC
CYPERUS DIANDRUS TORR.		FACM+	ELATINE AMERICANA (PURSH) ARM. & C. A. MEYER		OBL
CYPERUS ERYTHRORHIZOS MUHL.		FACM+	ELEOCHARIS ACICULARIS (L.) ROEM. & J. A. SCHULTES		OBL
CYPERUS ESCULENTUS L.		FACM	ELEOCHARIS ENGELMANNII STEUD.		FACM+
CYPERUS FILICINUS VAHL		OBL	ELEOCHARIS EQUITOIDES (ELLIOTT) TORR.		OBL
CYPERUS FLAVESCENS L.		FACM	ELEOCHARIS ERYTHROPODA STEUD.		OBL
CYPERUS ODORATUS L.		FACM+	ELEOCHARIS FALLAX WEATHERBY		OBL
CYPERUS RIVULARIS KUNTH		FAC	ELEOCHARIS HALOPHILA (FERNALD & A. BRACKETT) FERNALD & A. BRACKETT		OBL
CYPERUS STRIGOSUS L.		FACU	ELEOCHARIS MELANOCARPA TORR.		FACM+
CYPRIPEDIUM ACAULE AIT.		FAC	ELEOCHARIS OLIVACEA TORR.		OBL
CYPRIPEDIUM CALCEOLUS L.		FACU	ELEOCHARIS OVATA (ROTH) ROEM. & J. A. SCHULTES		OBL
CYSTOPTERIS BULBIFERA (L.) BERNH.		FACU	ELEOCHARIS PALUSTRIS (L.) ROEM. & J. A. SCHULTES		OBL
CYSTOPTERIS FRAGILIS (L.) BERNH.		FAC	ELEOCHARIS PARVULA (ROEM. & J. A. SCHULTES) LINK EX BLUFF & FINGERH.		OBL
DACTYLIS GLOMERATA L.		FAC-	ELEOCHARIS PAUCIFLORA (LIGHTF.) LINK		OBL
DALIBARDA REPENS L.		FACU	ELEOCHARIS ROBINSONII OAKES		OBL
DANTHONIA COMPRESSA AUST.		OBL	ELEOCHARIS ROSTELLATA (TORR.) TORR.		OBL
DANTHONIA SERICEA NUTT.		FACH	ELEOCHARIS ROSTELLATA (TORR.) TORR.		OBL
DECODON VERTICILLATUS (L.) ELLIOTT		FAC	ELEOCHARIS SMALLII BRITTON		FACM+
DESCHAMPSIA GESPITOSA (L.) BEAUV.		FAC	ELEOCHARIS TENUIS (WILLD.) J. A. SCHULTES		OBL
DESMODIUM CANADENSE (L.) DC.		FAC	ELEOCHARIS TRICOSTATA TORR.		OBL
DICHANTHELIUM ACUMINATUM (SWARTZ) GOULD & C. A. CLARK		FAC+	ELEOCHARIS TUBERCULOSA (MICHX.) ROEM. & J. A. SCHULTES		OBL
DICHANTHELIUM CLANDESTINUM (L.) GOULD		FACM+	ELEOCHARIS UNIGLUMIS (LINK) J. A. SCHULTES		FACU-
DICHANTHELIUM COMMUTATUM (J. A. SCHULTES) GOULD		FAC	ELEUSINE INDICA (L.) GAERTN.		OBL
DICHANTHELIUM DICHOTOMUM (L.) GOULD		FACU-	ELODEA CANADENSIS MICHX.		OBL
DICHANTHELIUM LATIFOLIUM (L.) HARVILL		FACU	ELODEA NUTTALLII (PLANCH.) H. ST. JOHN		OBL
DICHANTHELIUM LAXIFLORUM (L.) GOULD		FACU	ELYMUS CANADENSIS L.		FACU+
DICHANTHELIUM OLIGOSANTHES (J. A. SCHULTES) GOULD		FACU	ELYMUS RIPARIUS WIEGAND		FACM
DICHANTHELIUM SABULORUM (LAM.) GOULD & C. A. CLARK		FACU	ELYMUS VILLOSUM MUHL. EX WILLD.		FACU-
DICHANTHELIUM SCABRUSCULUM (ELLIOTT) GOULD & C. A. CLARK		OBL	ELYMUS VIRGINICUS L.		FAC
DICHANTHELIUM SCOPARIUM (LAM.) GOULD		FACM	EPILOBIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM L.		OBL
DICHANTHELIUM SPHAEROCARPON (ELLIOTT) GOULD		FACU-	EPILOBIUM COLORATUM BIEHLER		FACM
DIGITARIA SANGUINALIS (L.) SCOP.		FAC-	EPILOBIUM HIRSUTUM L.		OBL
DIOSCOREA VILLOSA L.		NI	EPILOBIUM LEPTOPHYLLUM RAF.		OBL
DIPSACUS VIRGINIANA L.		FAC	EPILOBIUM PALUSTRE L.		OBL
DIPSACUS SYLVESTRIS HUDS.		FACM+	EPILOBIUM STRICTUM MUHL. EX SPRENG.		OBL
DIPCA PALUSTRIS L.		FACU-	EQUISETUM ARVENSE L.		OBL
DISTIGLIS SPICATA (L.) GREENE		FACU-	EQUISETUM FLUVIATILE L.		FAC
DRACOCEPHALUM PARVIFLORUM NUTT.		OBL	EQUISETUM HYEMALE L.		FACM
DROSER A FILIFORMIS RAF.		OBL	EQUISETUM PALUSTRE L.		FACM
DROSER A INTERMEDIA HAYNE		OBL	EQUISETUM SYLVATICUM L.		FACM
DROSER A ROTUNDFOLIA L.		OBL	ERAGROSTIS CILLIANSIS (ALL.) LINK EX MOSHER		FACU
DRYOPTERIS CLINTONIANA (D.C. EAT.) P. DOWEL		FACM+	ERAGROSTIS PECTINACEA (MICHX.) NEES		FACU
DRYOPTERIS CRISTATA (L.) GRAY		FACM+	ERECTHITES HIERACIIFOLIA (L.) RAF. EX DC.		FACU
DRYOPTERIS INTERMEDIA (WILLD.) GRAY		FACU	ERIGERON ANNUUS (L.) PERS.		FACU
DRYOPTERIS MARGINALIS (L.) GRAY		FACU-	ERIGERON PHILADELPHICUS L.		FACU
DRYOPTERIS SPINULOSA (O.F. MUELL.) WATT		FAC+	ERIGERON PULCHELLUS MICHX.		FACU
DRYOPTERIS X BOOTTII (TUCKERMAN) UNDERW.		FACM			

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## Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands (Continued)

GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	R I I N D	GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	R I I N D
ERIGERON STRIGOSUS MUHL.	EX WILLD.	FACU+	GERANIUM MACULATUM L.		FACU
ERIOCAULON PARKERI B. ROB.		OBL	GEUM ALPEPICUM JACQ.		FAC
ERIOCAULON SEPTANGULARE WITTH.		OBL	GEUM CANADENSE JACQ.		FACU
ERIOPHORUM ALPIMUM L.		OBL	GEUM LACINIATUM MURRAY		FAC+
ERIOPHORUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM HONCK.		OBL	GEUM RIVALE L.		OBL
ERIOPHORUM GRACILE W. KOCH		OBL	GEUM VIRGINIANUM L.		FAC-
ERIOPHORUM SPISSUM FERNALD		OBL	GLAUX MARITIMA L.		OBL
ERIOPHORUM TENELLUM NUTT.		OBL	GLEGOMA HEDERACEA L.		FACU
ERIOPHORUM VAGINATUM L.		OBL	GLEDITSIA TRIACANTHOS L.		FAC-
ERIOPHORUM VIRGINICUM L.		OBL	GLYCERIA ACUTIFLORA TORR.		OBL
ERIOPHORUM VIRIDICARINATUM (ENGLM.) FERNALD		OBL	GLYCERIA BOREALIS (WASH) BATCH.		OBL
ERYSIMUM CHEIRANTHOIDES L.		FAC	GLYCERIA CANADENSIS (MICHX.) TRIN.		OBL
EUONYMUS ATROPURPUREUS JACQ.		FACU	GLYCERIA FLUITANS (L.) R. BR.		OBL
EUPATORIUM ADELPHUS DUBIUS (WILLD. EX POIR.) R. M. KING & H. ROB.		FACU	GLYCERIA MAXIMA (HARTM.) O. R. HOLMBERG		OBL
EUPATORIUM PILOSUM WALTER		FACW	GLYCERIA OBTUSA (MUHL.) TRIN.		OBL
EUPATORIUM ROTUNDIFOLIUM L.		FACW	GLYCERIA SEPTENTRIONALIS A. HITCHC.		OBL
EUPATORIUM SEROTINUM MICHX.		FACW	GLYCERIA STRIATA (LAM.) A. HITCHC.		OBL
EUPHORBIA MACULATA L.		FACW+	GOODYERA PUBESCENS (WILLD.) R. BR.		FACU-
EUPHORBIA POLYGONIFOLIA L.		FACW	GOODYERA REPENS (L.) R. BR.		FACU+
EUTHAMIA GRAMINIFOLIA (L.) NUTT.		FAC-	GOODYERA TESSELATA LODDIG.		FACU-
FAGUS GRANDIFOLIA EHRR.		FAC-	GRATIOLA ADREA PURSH		OBL
FESTUCA ARUNDINACEA SCHREB.		FACU-	GRATIOLA NEGLECTA TORR.		OBL
FESTUCA OBUSA BIEHLER		FACU	GRINDELIA SQUARROSA (PURSH) DUNAL		FACU
FESTUCA PRATENSIS HUDD.		FACU	HACKELIA VIRGINIANA (L.) I. JOHNST.		FACU
FESTUCA RUBRA L.		FACU	HAMAMELIS VIRGINIANA L.		FAC-
FILAGINELLA ULIGINOSA (L.) OPLZ		FACU	HASTEOLA SUAVEOLENS (L.) POJARK.		FAC-
FIMBRISTYLIS AUTUMNALIS (L.) ROEM. & J. A. SCHULTES		FACU	HELENIUM AMARUM (RAF.) H. ROCK		FACU-
FRAGARIA VIRGINIANA DUCHESNE		FACU	HELENIUM AUTUMNALE L.		FACW+
FRAXINUS AMERICANA L.		FACU	HELENIUM FLEXUOSUM RAF.		FAC-
FRAXINUS NIGRA MARSHALL		FACU	HELIANTHUS ANNUUS L.		FAC-
FRAXINUS PENNSYLVANICA MARSHALL		FACU	HELIANTHUS DECAPETALUS L.		FACU
FUIRENA PUMILA TORR.		OBL	HELIANTHUS GIGANTEUS L.		FACW
GALIUM APARINE L.		FACU	HEMICARPHA MICRANTHA (VAHL) PAX		FAC
GALIUM ASPERILLUM MICHX.		OBL	HERACLEUM LANATUM MICHX.		FACU+
GALIUM OBTUSUM BIGEL.		FACU	HIBISCUS ROSCHEUTOS L.		FACU-
GALIUM PALUSTRE L.		FACU	HIEROCHLOE ODORATA (L.) BEAUV.		OBL
GALIUM TINCTORIUM L.		FACU	HOLCUS LANATUS L.		FACU
GALIUM TRIFLORUM MICHX.		FACU+	HONKENYA PEPLIOIDES (L.) EHRH.		FACU
GAULTHERIA HISPIDULA (L.) MUHL. EX TORR.		OBL	HORDEUM JUBATUM L.		FAC
GAULTHERIA PROLUMBENS L.		OBL	HOTTONTIA INFLATA ELLIOTT		OBL
GAYLUSSACIA BACCATA (WANGENH.) K. KOCH		FACU	HOUSTONIA CAERULEA L.		FACU
GAYLUSSACIA DUMOSA (ANDR.) TORR. & GRAY		FAC	HUMULUS JAPONICUS STEBOLD & ZUCCAR.		FACU
GAYLUSSACIA FRONDOSA (L.) TORR. & GRAY		FAC	HUMULUS LUPULUS L.		NI
GENTIANA ANDREWSII GRISEB.		FACU	HYDROCOTYLE AMERICANA L.		OBL
GENTIANA CLAUASA RAF.		FACU	HYDROCOTYLE UMBELLATA L.		OBL
GENTIANA SAPONARIA L.		FACU	HYDROCOTYLE VERTICILLATA THUNB.		OBL
GENTIANOPSIS CRINITA (FROEL.) MA		FACW	HYPERICUM ADPRESSUM W. BARTON		OBL
		OBL	HYPERICUM BOREALE (BRITTON) BICKN.		OBL
			HYPERICUM CANADENSE L.		FACW
			HYPERICUM DISSIMULATUM BICKN.		FACW
			HYPERICUM ELLIPTICUM HOOK.		OBL

Symbology: OBL (Obligate), FACW (Facultative Wetland), FAC (Facultative), FACU (Facultative Upland), NI (no indicator assigned), \* (limited ecological information), + (higher portion of frequency range), and - (lower portion of frequency range). See discussion of hydrophyte definition and concept in Chapter 6.

# Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands (Continued)

GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	RI IND	GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	RI IND
HYPERICUM MAJUS (GRAY)	BRITTON	FACH	LACTUCA SERRIOLA L.		FAC-
HYPERICUM HUTTLUM L.		FACH	LAPORTEA CANADENSIS (L.) WEDD.		FACH
HYPERICUM PROLIFICUM L.		FACU	LARIX LARICINA (DU ROI) K. KOCH		FACH
HYPERICUM PUNCTATUM LAM.		FAC-	LATHYRUS JAPONICUS WILLD.		FACH-
HYPOXIS HIRSUTA (L.) COVILLE		FAC	LATHYRUS PALUSTRIS L.		FACH+
ILEX GLABRA (L.) GRAY		FAC-	LEERSTIA ORYZOIDES (L.) SWARTZ		OBL
ILEX LAEVIGATA (PURSH) A. GRAY		OBL	LEERSTIA VIRGINICA WILLD.		OBL
ILEX OPACA SOLAND. IN ALT.		FACU+	LENNA MINIMA HUMB. EX PHILIPPI NOMEN SUPERFL. NONCHEV.		OBL
ILEX VERTICILLATA (L.) GRAY		FACH+	LENNA MINOR L.		OBL
IMPATIENS CAPENSIS HEERB.		FACH+	LENNA PERPUSILLA TORR.		OBL
IMPATIENS PALLIDA NUTT.		FACH	LENNA TRISULCA L.		OBL
IPOMOEA COCCINEA L.		FACH	LENNA VALDIVIANA PHILIPPI		OBL
IRIS PRISMATICA PURSH		FACH	LEPIDIUM DENSIFLORUM SCHRAD.		FAC
IRIS PSEUDACORUS L.		OBL	LEPIDIUM VIRGINICUM L.		FACH-
IRIS VERSICOLOR L.		OBL	LEPTOCHLOA FASCICULARIS (LAM.) GRAY		FACH
ISOETES ECHINOSPORA DURIEU		OBL	LESPEDeza ANGUSTIFOLIA (PURSH) ELLIOTT		FAC
ISOETES ENGELMANNI A. BRAUN		OBL	LESPEDeza CAPITATA MICHX.		FACH-
ISOETES RIPARIA ENGELM. EX A. BRAUN		OBL	LIASTRIS SPICATA (L.) WILLD.		FACH
ISOETES TUCKERMANII A. BRAUN EX ENGELM.		OBL	LIGUSTICUM SCOTIHCUM L.		FAC+
ISOETIA MEDELOIDES (PURSH) RAF.		FACH	LIGUSTRUM VULGARE L.		FAC
ISOTRIA VERTICILLATA (MUHL. EX WILLD.) RAF.		FACH	LILAEOPSIS CHINENSIS (L.) KUNTZE		FACH
IVA FRUTESCENS L.		FACH+	LILIUM CANADENSE L.		OBL
JUGLANS CINEREA L.		FACH+	LILIUM PHILADELPHICUM L.		FAC+
JUGLANS NIGRA L.		FACH	LILIUM SUPERBUM L.		FACH+
JUNCUS ACUMINATUS MICHX.		OBL	LINUM CAROLINIANUM (WALTER) BRITTON		OBL
JUNCUS ARTICULATUS L.		OBL	LINUM NASHII SMALL		OBL
JUNCUS BALTICUS WILLD.		FACH+	LINOMELLA SUBULATA E. IVES		FACH-
JUNCUS BREVICAUDATUS (ENGELM.) FERNALD		OBL	LINDERA BENZOIN (L.) BLUME		OBL
JUNCUS BUFONIUS L.		FACH	LINDERNIA ANAGALLIDEA (MICHX.) PENNELL		OBL
JUNCUS CANADENSIS J. GAY		OBL	LINDERNIA DUBIA (L.) PENNELL		OBL
JUNCUS DEBILIS GRAY		OBL	LINNAEA BOREALIS L.		FAC
JUNCUS DICHOTOMUS ELLIOTT		FACH	LINUM MEDIUM (PLANCH.) BRITTON		FACH
JUNCUS EFFUSUS L.		FACH+	LINUM STRIATUM WALTER		FACH
JUNCUS GERARDII LOISELEUR		FACH+	LINUM VIRGINIANUM L.		FACH
JUNCUS GREENE OAKES & TUCKERMAN		FAC	LIPARIS LILIIFOLIA (L.) L. C. RICH. EX KER-GANL.		FACH-
JUNCUS GREENE OAKES & TUCKERMAN		FACH	LIPARIS LOESLI (L.) L. C. RICH.		FACH-
JUNCUS HARGINATUS ROSTK.		OBL	LIRIODENDRON TULPIFERA L.		FACH
JUNCUS MILITARIS BIGEL.		OBL	LISTERA CORDATA (L.) R. BR.		FACH+
JUNCUS NODOSUS L.		OBL	LOBELIA CARDINALIS L.		FACH+
JUNCUS PELOCARPUS E. MEYER		OBL	LOBELIA DORTMANNIA L.		OBL
JUNCUS PLATYPHYLLUS (WIEGAND) FERNALD		FACH	LOBELIA INFATA L.		FACH
JUNCUS SCIRPOIDES LAM.		FACH	LOBELIA SPICATA LAM.		FACH-
JUNCUS SECUNDUS BEAUV.		FACH	LOLIUM PERENNE L.		FACH-
JUNCUS TENUIS WILLD.		FACH	LOWIGERA DIDICA L.		FACH
JUNIPERUS HORIZONTALIS MOENCH		FACH	LOWIGERA HIRSUTA A. EAT.		FACH
JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA L.		FACH	LOWICERA JAPONICA THUNB.		FACH-
KALNIA ANGUSTIFOLIA L.		FAC	LOWICERA OBLONGIFOLIA (GOLDIE) HOOK.		FAC-
KALNIA LATIFOLIA L.		FACH	LOWICERA SEMPERVIRENS L.		FACH
KALNIA POLIFOLIA WANGENH.		OBL	LOTUS CORNICULATUS L.		FACH+
KICKXIA ELATINE (L.) DUMORT.		FACH	LUDWIGIA ALTERNIFOLIA L.		FACH+
LACHNANTHES CAROLINIANA (LAM.) DANDY		OBL	LUDWIGIA PALUSTRIS (L.) ELLIOTT		OBL
LACTUCA BIENNIS (MOENCH) FERNALD		FACH			
LACTUCA CANADENSIS L.		FACH-			

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## Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands (Continued)

GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL-AUTHOR	R I I N D	GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL-AUTHOR	R I I N D
LUDWIGIA SPHAEROCARPA ELLIOTT	OBL	MITCHELLA REPENS L.	FACU
LUDWIGIA X LACUSTRIS E. EAMES	OBL	MOHRINGIA LATRIFLORA (L.) FENZL	FAC
LUZULA ACUMINATA RAF.	FAC	MOLLUGO VERTICILLATA L.	FAC+
LUZULA MULTIFLORA (EHRH. EX HOFFM.) LEJ.	FACU	MONARDA DIDYMA L.	FACU-
LYCHNIS FLOS-CUCULI L.	FAC	MONOTROPA UNIFLORA L.	FAC
LYCOPodium APPRESSUM (CHAPM.) LLOYD & UNDERH.	FAC+	MUHLEBERGIA FRONDOSA (POIR.) FERNALD	FACH
LYCOPodium CLAVATUM L.	FAC	MUHLEBERGIA GLOMERATA (MILLD.) TRIN.	FACH
LYCOPodium COMPLANATUM L.	FACU-	MUHLEBERGIA MEXICANA (L.) TRIN.	FACH
LYCOPodium DEMROIDIUM MICHX.	FACU	MUHLEBERGIA SYLVESTRI J.F. GREL.	FAC
LYCOPodium INUNDATUM L.	OBL	MUHLEBERGIA SYLVATICA TORR. EX GRAY	FAC+
LYCOPodium LUCIDULUM MICHX.	FACH-	MUHLEBERGIA UNIFLORA (MUHL.) FERNALD	OBL
LYCOPodium OBSCURUM L.	FACU	MYOSOTIS SCORPIOIDES L.	OBL
LYCOPUS AMERICANUS MUHL. EX H. BARTON	OBL	MYOSOTIS VERNA NUTT.	FAC-
LYCOPUS AMPLECTENS RAF.	OBL	MYRICA GALE L.	FAC
LYCOPUS RUBELLUS MOENCH	OBL	MYRICA PENSYLVANICA LOISELEUR	FAC
LYCOPUS UNIFLORUS MICHX.	OBL	MYRIOPHYLLUM HETEROPHYLLUM MICHX.	OBL
LYCOPUS VIRGINICUS L.	OBL	MYRIOPHYLLUM HUMILE (RAF.) MORONG	OBL
LYGODIUM PALMATUM (BERNH.) SWARTZ	FACH	MYRIOPHYLLUM PINNATUM (WALTER) B. S. P.	OBL
LYONIA LIGUSTRINA (L.) DC.	FACH	MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM BIGEL.	OBL
LYONIA MARIANA (L.) D. DON	FACH	NAJAS FLEXILIS (WILLD.) ROSTK. & H. L. E. SCHMIDT	OBL
LYSIMACHIA CILIATA L.	OBL	NAJAS GRACILLIMA (A. BRAUN) MAGNUS	OBL
LYSIMACHIA HYBRIDA MICHX.	OBL	NAJAS GUADALUPENSIS (SPRENG.) MORONG	OBL
LYSIMACHIA NUMMULARIA L.	FACU-	NASTURTIUM OFFICINALE R. BR. IN H. T. AIT.	OBL
LYSIMACHIA QUADRIFOLIA L.	OBL	NEPETHA CATARIA L.	FACU
LYSIMACHIA TERRESTRIS (L.) B. S. P.	OBL	NEPETHA LUTEUM (L.) SIBTH. & J.E. SMITH	OBL
LYSIMACHIA THYRSIFLORA L.	OBL	NYPHAEAE ODORATA SOLAND. IN AIT.	OBL
LYSIMACHIA VULGARIS L.	FAC+	NYPHAEAE CORDATA (ELLIOTT) FERNALD	OBL
LYSIMACHIA X PRODUCTA (GRAY) FERNALD	FAC+	NYSSA SYLVATICA MARSHALL	FAC
LYTHRUM ALATUM PURSH	FACH+	NYSSA SYLVATICA MARSHALL VAR. BIFLORA (WALTER) SARG.	FACH+
LYTHRUM HYSSOPIFOLIA L.	FACH+	OENOTHERA BIENNIS L.	FACU-
LYTHRUM SALICARIA L.	FAC-	OENOTHERA FRUTICOSA L.	FAC
MAIANthemum CANADENSE DESF.	FAC	OENOTHERA PARYIFLORA L.	FACU-
MALAXIS UNIFOLIA MICHX.	FACU	OENOTHERA PERENNIS L.	FACH
MATRICARIA MATRICARIOIDES (LESS.) T. PORTER	FACH	ONOCLEA SENSBILIS L.	FACH
MATTEUCCIA STRUTHIOPTERIS (L.) TODARO	FACH	OPHIOGLOSSUM VULGATUM L.	FACH
MEGALODONTA BECKII (TORR.) GREENE	OBL	ORNITHOGALUM UMBELLATUM L.	FACU
MELAMPYRUM LINEARE DESR.	FACU	OROBANCHE UNIFLORA L.	FACU
MELANOTHUM VIRGINICUM L.	FACH+	ORONTIUM AQUATICUM L.	OBL
MELILOTUS ALBA MEDIC.	FACU-	OSMORHIZA CLAYTONII (MICHX.) C. B. CLARKE	FACU-
MELILOTUS OFFICINALIS LAM.	FACH	OSMORHIZA LONGISTYLIS (TORR.) DC.	FACU
MENTHA ARWENSIS L.	FACH+	OSMUNDA CINNAMOMEA L.	FACH
MENTHA CARDIACA BAKER	FACH+	OSMUNDA CLAYTONIANA L.	FAC
MENTHA CITRATA EHRH.	FACH+	OSMUNDA REGALIS L.	OBL
MENTHA SPICATA L.	FACH+	OSTRYA VIRGINIANA (MILL.) K. KOCH	FACU-
MENTHA X PIPERITA L.	FACH+	OXALIS CORNICULATA L.	FACU
MENYANTHES TRIFOLIATA L.	OBL	OXALIS MONTANA RAF.	FACU-
MIKANIA SCANDENS (L.) WILLD.	FACH+	PANICUM AMARUM ELLIOTT	FACU-
MIMULUS ALATUS AIT.	OBL	PANICUM CAPILLARE L.	FACU-
MIMULUS RINGENS L.	OBL	PANICUM DICHOTOMIFLORUM MICHX.	FACH-
MIRABILIS NYCTAGINEA (MICHX.) MACHIL	FACU-	PANICUM LONGIFOLIUM TORR.	OBL
MISCANTHUS SINENSIS ANDERSS.	FACU		

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# Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands (Continued)

GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	RI IND	GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	RI IND
PANICUM RIGIDULUM	BOSC	EX NEES	FACW+	POA PRATENSIS	L		FACU
PANICUM TUCKERMANII	FERNALD		FAC-	POA TRIVIALIS	L		FACW
PANICUM VERRUCOSUM	MUHL		FAC	PODOPHYLLUM PELTATUM	L		FACU
PANICUM VIRGATUM	L		FAC-	PODOSTEMUM CERATOPHYLLUM	MICHX.		OBL
PARIETARIA PENNSYLVANICA	MUHL. EX WILLD.		OBL	POGONIA OPHIOGLOSSOIDES	(L.) JUSS.		FACU
PARNASSIA GLAUCA	RAF.		FACU	POLYMONIUM REPTANS	L.		OBL
PARTHENOCESSUS QUINQUEFOLIA	(L.) PLANCH.		FACU	POLYGALA BREVIFOLIA	MUTT.		FACW+
PARTHENOCESSUS VITACEA	(KNERR) A. HITCHC.		FACU	POLYGALA CRUCIATA	L.		FAC
PASPALUM LAEVE	MICHX.		FACU+	POLYGALA NUTTALLII	TORR. & GRAY		FACU
PASPALUM SETACEUM	MICHX.		FACU	POLYGALA PAUCIFOLIA	WILLD.		FACU
PEDICULARIS CANADENSIS	L.		FACW	POLYGALA SANGUINEA	L.		FACU
PEDICULARIS LANCEOLATA	MICHX.		OBL	POLYGONATUM BIFLORUM	(WALTER) ELLIOTT		FACU
PELTANDRA VIRGINICA	(L.) KUNTH		FAC	POLYGONATUM COMMUTATUM	(J. A. & J. H. SCHULTES) A. DIETR.		OBL
PENSTEMON DIGITALIS	MUTT.		FACU	POLYGONUM AMPHIBIUM	L.		OBL
PENSTEMON LAEVIGATUS	SOLAND.		OBL	POLYGONUM ARIIFOLIUM	L.		FACU
PENTHORUM SEDOIDES	L.		FACW+	POLYGONUM AVICULARE	L.		FACU
PHALARIS ARUNDINACEA	L.		FACU	POLYGONUM CAREYI	OLNEY		FACU
PHALARIS CAMARIENSIS	L.		FACU	POLYGONUM GAYI	OLNEY		FACU
PHLEUM PRATENSE	L.		FACU	POLYGONUM CONVULVULUS	L.		FACU-
PHLOX PANICULATA	L.		FACW	POLYGONUM CUSPIDATUM	SIEBOLD & ZUCCAR.		FACU
PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS	(CAV.) TRIN. EX STEUD.		FAC	POLYGONUM ERECTUM	L.		FACU
PHYSALIS ANGULATA	L.		FAC	POLYGONUM GLAUCUM	MUTT.		OBL
PHYSALIS PUBESCENS	L.		FACU-	POLYGONUM HYDROPIPER	L.		OBL
PHYSOCARPUS OPULIFOLIUS	(L.) MAXIM.		FACW-	POLYGONUM HYDROPIPEROIDES	MICHX.		FACW+
PHYTOSTEGIA VIRGINIANA	(L.) BENTH.		FAC+	POLYGONUM LATHRAEIFOLIUM	L.		FACU-
PHYTOLACCA AMERICANA	L.		FACU	POLYGONUM PELOUSANUM	RIDDELL EX SMALL		FACW
PICEA GLAUCA	(MOENCH) VOSS		FACW-	POLYGONUM ORIENTALE	L.		OBL
PICEA MARIANA	(MILL.) B. S. P.		FACW	POLYGONUM PENNSYLVANICUM	L.		FACU-
PILEA PUMILA	(L.) GRAY		FACW	POLYGONUM PERSICARIA	L.		FACW
PINUS RESINOSA	SOLAND. IN AIT.		FACU	POLYGONUM PUNCTATUM	ELLIOTT		FAC
PINUS RIGIDA	MILL.		FACU	POLYGONUM RAMOSISSIMUM	MICHX.		OBL
PINUS STROBUS	L.		FACU	POLYGONUM ROBUSTIUS	(SMALL) FERNALD		OBL
PLANTAGO MAJOR	L.		FACW	POLYGONUM SAGITTATUM	L.		OBL
PLANTAGO MARITIMA	L.		FACU	POLYGONUM SCANDENS	L.		FAC
PLANTAGO RUBELLI	DECNE.		FACU	POLYGONUM SETACEUM	BALDM.		FAC
PLANTANTHERA BLEPHARIGLOTTIS	(WILLD.) LINDL.		OBL	POLYGONUM VIRGINIANUM	L.		FACU-
PLANTANTHERA CILIARIS	(L.) LINDL.		FACW	POLYSTICHUM ACROSTICHOIDES	(MICHX.) SCHOTT		OBL
PLANTANTHERA FLAVA	(L.) LINDL.		FACW	PONTEDERIA CORDATA	L.		FACU
PLANTANTHERA GRANDIFLORA	(BIGEL.) LINDL.		FACW	POPULUS BALSAMIFERA	L.		FACW
PLANTANTHERA HOOKERI	(TORR.) LINDL.		FAC	POPULUS DELTOIDES	W. BARTRAM EX MARSHALL		FAC
PLANTANTHERA HYPERBOREA	(L.) LINDL.		FACW	POPULUS GRANDIDENTATA	MICHX.		FACU-
PLANTANTHERA LACERA	(MICHX.) G. DON		FACW	POPULUS TREMULA	L.		FACU
PLANTANTHERA ORBICULATA	(PURSH) LINDL.		FAC	PORTULACA OLERACEA	L.		FAC
PLANTANTHERA PSYCHODES	(L.) LINDL.		FACW	POTAMOGETON AMPLIFOLIUS	TUCKERMAN		OBL
PLANTANUS OCCIDENTALIS	L.		FACW+	POTAMOGETON BIGUPULATUS	FERNALD		OBL
PLUCHEA PURPURASCENS	(SMARTZ) DC.		FACW-	POTAMOGETON CONFEROIDES	REICHENB.		OBL
POA ANNUA	L.		OBL	POTAMOGETON CRISPUS	L.		OBL
POA COMPRESSA	L.		FACU	POTAMOGETON EPIHYDRUS	RAF.		OBL
POA MEMORABILIS	L.		FACU	POTAMOGETON FOLIOSUS	RAF.		2V OBL
POA PALUSTRIS	L.		FAC	POTAMOGETON GRAMINEUS	L.		OBL
			FACW	POTAMOGETON NATANS	L.		OBL
				POTAMOGETON NODOSUS	POIR.		OBL

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Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands (Continued)

GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL-AUTHOR	R I I N D	GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL-AUTHOR	R I I N D
POTAMOGETON OAKSIANUS J. W. ROBBINS	OBL	RANUNCULUS AQUATILIS L.	OBL
POTAMOGETON OBTUSIFOLIUS F. MERTENS & W. KOCH	OBL	RANUNCULUS CYBALARIA PURSH	OBL
POTAMOGETON PECTINATUS L.	OBL	RANUNCULUS FASCICULARIS MUHL. EX BIGEL.	FACU
POTAMOGETON PERFOLIATUS L.	OBL	RANUNCULUS FLABELLARIIS RAF.	OBL
POTAMOGETON PUSILLUS L.	OBL	RANUNCULUS MICRANTHUS NUTT.	FACU
POTAMOGETON ROBBINSII OAKES	OBL	RANUNCULUS PENNSYLVANICUS L. F.	OBL
POTAMOGETON SPIRILLUS TUCKERMAN	OBL	RANUNCULUS RECURVATUS POIR.	FAC+
POTAMOGETON VASEYI J. W. ROBBINS	OBL	RANUNCULUS REPENS L.	FAC
POTAMOGETON ZOSTERIFORMIS FERNALD	OBL	RANUNCULUS SCELERATUS L.	OBL
POTENTILLA ANSERINA L.	OBL	RANUNCULUS TRICHOPHYLLUS D. CHAIX	OBL
POTENTILLA FRUTICOSA L.	FACW	RHEXIA VIRGINICA L.	OBL
POTENTILLA NORVEGICA L.	FACU	RHODODENDRON CANADENSE (L.) B. S. P.	FAC
POTENTILLA SIMPLEX MICHX.	FACU-	RHODODENDRON MAXIMUM L.	FAC
PRENANTHES ALBA L.	FACU-	RHODODENDRON PERICLYMENOIDES (MICHX.) SHINNERS	FAC
PRENANTHES ALTISSIMA L.	FACU-	RHODODENDRON PRINOPHYLLUM (SMALL) HILLAIS	FAC
PROSERPINACA PALUSTRIS L.	OBL	RHODODENDRON VISCOSUM (L.) TORR.	OBL
PROSERPINACA PECTINATA LAM.	OBL	RHUS COPALLINUM L.	NI
PROSERPINACA X INTERMEDIA MACKENZ.	OBL	RHYNCHOSPORA ALBA (L.) VAHL	OBL
PRUNELLA VULGARIS L.	OBL	RHYNCHOSPORA CAPITELLATA (MICHX.) VAHL	OBL
PRUNUS AMERICANA MARSHALL	FACU+	RHYNCHOSPORA FUSCA (L.) W. T. AIT.	OBL
PRUNUS PENNSYLVANICA L. F.	FACU-	RHYNCHOSPORA INUNDATA (OAKES) FERNALD	OBL
PRUNUS SEROTINA EHRH.	FACU	RHYNCHOSPORA MACROSTACHYA TORR.	OBL
PRUNUS VIRGINIANA L.	FACU	RHYNCHOSPORA TORREIANA GRAY	FACW+
PSILOCARYA SCIRPOIDES TORR.	FAC	RIBES AMERICANUM MILL.	FAC
PTILEA TRIFOLIATA L.	FAC	RIBES HIRTELLUM MICHX.	FAC
PTERIDIUM AQUILINUM (L.) KUHN	FACU	RIBES ODORATUM H. L. WENDL.	FACU
PTILINIUM CAPITACEUM (MICHX.) RAF.	OBL	RIBES TRISTE PALLAS	OBL
PUCCELLINIA DISTANS (L.) PARLAT.	OBL	ROBINIA PSEUDOCACIA L.	OBL
PUCCELLINIA FASCICULATA (TORR.) BICKN.	OBL	ROBIPPA PALUSTRIS (L.) BESSER	FACU-
PUCCELLINIA LANGEANA (BERLIN) SORENS. EX HULTEN	FACW+	ROBIPPA SYLVESTRIS (L.) BESSER	OBL
PUCCELLINIA MARITIMA (HUDS.) PARLAT.	OBL	ROSA ACICULARIS LINDL. U	FACW
PUCCELLINIA PALLIDA (TORR.) R. T. CLAUSEN	OBL	ROSA BLANDA AIT.	FACU
PUCCELLINIA PUMILA (VASEY) A. HITCHC.	FACW	ROSA MICRANTHA J. E. SMITH	FACU
PYGNAMETHUM MUTICUM (MICHX.) PERS.	FACW	ROSA MULTIFLORA THUNB.	FACU
PYGNAMETHUM TENUIFOLIUM SCHRAD.	FACW	ROSA NITIDA WILLD.	FACU
PYGNAMETHUM VERTICILLATUM (MICHX.) PERS.	FAC	ROSA PALUSTRIS MARSHALL	FACW+
PYGNAMETHUM VIRGINIANUM (L.) TH. DURAND & B. D. JACKS. EX B. ROB. & FERNALD	FAC	ROSA RUGOSA THUNB.	OBL
PYROLA ROTUNDIFOLIA L.	FAC	ROSA VIRGINIANA WILL.	FACU-
PYROLA SECUNDA L.	FAC	ROTALA RAMOSIOR (L.) KOEHNE	FAC
PYROLA UNIFLORA L.	FAC	RUBUS ALLEGHENIENSIS T. PORTER	FACU-
QUERCUS ALBA L.	FACU-	RUBUS ALUMNUS L. H. BAILEY	FACU-
QUERCUS BICOLOR WILLD.	FACW+	RUBUS ASCENDENS W. H. BLANCH.	FAC
QUERCUS FALCATA MICHX.	FACU-	RUBUS ENSLENI TRATT.	FACU
QUERCUS MACROCARPA MICHX.	FACU-	RUBUS FLORICOMUS W. H. BLANCH.	FACU
QUERCUS PALUSTRIS MUEENCHL.	FAC-	RUBUS FLORICOMUS W. H. BLANCH.	FACU
QUERCUS PRINOIDES WILLD.	FACW	RUBUS HISPIDIUS L.	FACW
QUERCUS RUBRA L.	NI	RUBUS IDAEUS L.	FAC-
RANUNCULUS ABORTIVUS L.	FACU-	RUBUS LAWRENCEI L. H. BAILEY	OBL
RANUNCULUS AGRIS L.	FACW-	RUBUS PUBESCENS RAF.	FACW
RANUNCULUS ALLEGHENIENSIS BRITTON	FAC+	RUBUS SEMISETOSUS W. H. BLANCH.	FACW
RANUNCULUS AMBIGENS S. WATS.	FAC	RUBUS SETOSUS BIGEL.	FACW+
	OBL	RUBUS STRIGOSUS MICHX.	NI

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# Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands (Continued)

GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	RI IND	GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	RI IND
RUBUS X GROUTIANUS	W. H. BLANCH.	FAC	SANTICULA GREGARIA	BICKN.	FACU
RUDBECKIA	HURTA L.	FACU-	SANTICULA MARI-LANDICA	L.	NI
RUMEX ALTISSIMUS	A. WOOD	FACU-	SAPONARIA OFFICINALIS	L.	FACU-
RUMEX CRISPUS	L.	FACU	SARRACENIA PURPUREA	L.	OBL
RUMEX DOMESTICUS	HARTM.	FAC	SASSAFRAS ALBIDUM	(NUTT.) NEES	FACU-
RUMEX MARITIMUS	L.	FAC	SAURURUS CERNUUS	L.	OBL
RUMEX OBTUSIFOLIUS	L.	FACU-	SAXIFRAGA PENNSYLVANICA	L.	OBL
RUMEX ORBICULATUS	GRAY	FACU	SAXIFRAGA VIRGINIENSIS	MICHX.	OBL
RUMEX TRIANGULIVALVIS	(DAMSER) RECH. F.	FACU	SCHUCHZERIA PALUSTRIS	L.	FACU-
RUMEX VERTICILLATUS	L.	OBL	SCHIZACHNE PURPURASCENS	(TORR.) SWALLEN	FACU-
RUPPIA MARITIMA	L.	OBL	SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM	(MICHX.) WASH	FACU-
SABATIA DODECANDRA	(L.) B. S. P.	OBL	SCHIRPUS ACUTUS	MUHL. EX BIGEL.	OBL
SABATIA KENNEDYANA	FERNALD	OBL	SCHIRPUS AMERICANUS	PERS.	OBL
SABATIA STELLARIS	PURSH	FACU+	SCHIRPUS ATRO-INCTUS	FERNALD	FACU+
SAGINA DECUMBENS	(ELLIOTT) TORR. & GRAY	FAC	SCHIRPUS CYPERINUS	(L.) KUNTH	FACU+
SAGINA PROCUMBENS	L.	FACU-	SCHIRPUS EXPANSUS	FERNALD	OBL
SAGITTARIA CALYCINA	ENGELM.	OBL	SCHIRPUS FLUVIATILIS	(TORR.) GRAY	OBL
SAGITTARIA ENGELMANNIANA	J. G. SMITH	OBL	SCHIRPUS GEORGIANUS	R. M. HARPER	OBL
SAGITTARIA GRAMINEA	MICHX.	OBL	SCHIRPUS HETEROCHAETUS	CHASE	OBL
SAGITTARIA LATIFOLIA	WILLD.	OBL	SCHIRPUS MARITIMUS	L.	OBL
SAGITTARIA RIGIDA	PURSH	OBL	SCHIRPUS MICROCARPUS	J. & K. PRESL	OBL
SAGITTARIA STAGNORUM	SMALL	OBL	SCHIRPUS PECKII	BRITTON	OBL
SAGITTARIA SUBULATA	(L.) BUCHENAU	OBL	SCHIRPUS PEDIGELLATUS	FERNALD	OBL
SALICORNIA BIGELOVIT	TORR.	OBL	SCHIRPUS POLYPHYLLUS	VAHL	OBL
SALICORNIA EUROPAEA	L.	OBL	SCHIRPUS ROBUSTUS	PURSH	OBL
SALICORNIA VIRGINICA	L.	OBL	SCHIRPUS SMITHII	GRAY	OBL
SALIX ALBA	L.	FAC	SCHIRPUS SUBTERMINALIS	TORR.	OBL
SALIX AMYGDALOIDES	ANDERSS.	FAC	SCHIRPUS VALIDUS	VAHL	OBL
SALIX BABYLONICA	L.	FACU-	SCHIRPUS TORREYI	OLNEY	OBL
SALIX BEBBIANA	SARG.	FAC	SCLERANTHUS ANNUUS	L.	FACU-
SALIX DISCOLOR	MUHL.	FACU	SCLERIA RETICULARIS	MICHX.	OBL
SALIX ERIOCEPHALA	MICHX.	FACU	SCLERIA TRIGLOMERATA	MICHX.	FAC
SALIX EXIGUA	NUTT.	FACU	SCLEROLEPIS UNIFLORA	(WALTER) B. S. P.	OBL
SALIX FRAGILIS	L.	FACU	SCROPHULARIA LANCEOLATA	PURSH	FACU+
SALIX HUMILIS	MARSHALL	FACU	SCUTELLARIA MARI-LANDICA	L.	OBL
SALIX LUCIDA	MUHL.	FACU	SCUTELLARIA GALERICULATA	L.	OBL
SALIX MYRIGOIDES	MUHL.	FACU+	SCUTELLARIA INTEGRIFOLIA	L.	FACU+
SALIX NIGRA	MARSHALL	FACU	SCUTELLARIA LATERIFLORA	L.	FACU+
SALIX PEDICELLARIS	PURSH	FACU	SELAGINELLA APODA	(L.) SPRING	FACU
SALIX PETIOLARIS	J. E. SMITH	OBL	SENECIO AUREUS	L.	FACU-
SALIX PURPUREA	L.	NI	SENECIO OBOVATUS	MUHL. EX WILLD.	FACU-
SALIX RIGIDA	MUHL.	OBL	SENECIO PAUPER-CULUS	MICHX.	FACU
SALIX SERICEA	MARSHALL	FACU-	SENECIO VULGARIS	L.	FACU
SALIX VIRGINALIS	L.	FACU	SETARIA GENUICULATA	(LAM.) BEAUV.	FAC
SALSOLA KALI	L.	FACU	SETARIA GLAUCA	(L.) BEAUV.	FAC
SALSOLA PESTIFERA	A. NELS.	FACU-	SETARIA ITALICA	(L.) BEAUV.	FACU
SAMBUCUS CANADENSIS	L.	FACU-	SETARIA VERTICILLATA	(L.) BEAUV.	FAC
SAMBUCUS RACEMOSA	L.	FACU-	SICYOS ANGULATUS	L.	FACU
SAMOLUS PARVIFLORUS	RAF.	OBL	SISYMBRIUM ALTISSIMUM	L.	FACU-
SANGUINARIA CANADENSIS	L.	NI	SISYRINCHIUM ANGSTIFOLIUM	MILL.	FACU-
SANGUISORBA CANADENSIS	L.	FACU+			
SANGUISORBA MINOR	SCOP.	FAC			

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Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands (Continued)

GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL-AUTHOR	RI IIND	GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL-AUTHOR	RI IIND
<i>SISYRINCHIUM ARENIGOLA</i> BICKN.	FACU	<i>SPIRANTHES OORATA</i> (NUTT.) LINDL.	OBL
<i>SISYRINCHIUM ATLANTICUM</i> BICKN.	FACH	<i>SPIRANTHES PRAECOX</i> (WALTER) S. WATS.	OBL
<i>SISYRINCHIUM MONTANUM</i> GREENE	FAC	<i>SPIRANTHES ROMANZOFFIANA</i> CHAM.	OBL
<i>SISYRINCHIUM MUCRONATUM</i> MICHX.	FAC+	<i>SPIRANTHES VERNALIS</i> ENGELM. & GRAY	FAC
<i>SIUM CARSONII</i> E. H. DURAND EX GRAY	OBL	<i>SPIRODELA POLYRHIZA</i> (L.) SCHLEID.	OBL
<i>SIUM SUAVE</i> WALTER	OBL	<i>STACHYS ASPERA</i> MICHX.	FACH
<i>SMILACINA RACEMOSA</i> (L.) DESF.	FACU-	<i>STACHYS CORDATA</i> RIDDELL	FAC
<i>SMILACINA STELLATA</i> (L.) DESF.	FACH	<i>STACHYS HISPIDA</i> PURSH	OBL
<i>SMILACINA TRIFOLIA</i> (L.) DESF.	OBL	<i>STACHYS HYSSOPIFOLIA</i> MICHX.	FAC+
<i>SMILAX GLAUCA</i> WALTER	FACU	<i>STACHYS PALUSTRIS</i> L.	OBL
<i>SMILAX HERBACEA</i> L.	FAC	<i>STACHYS TENUIFOLIA</i> WILLD.	FAC+
<i>SMILAX PULVERULENTA</i> MICHX.	FACU	<i>STAPHYLEA TRIFOLIA</i> L.	FAC
<i>SMILAX ROTUNDIFOLIA</i> L.	FAC	<i>STELLARIA CALYCANTHA</i> (LEDEB.) BONG.	FACH
<i>SOLANUM AMERICANUM</i> MILL.	FAC-	<i>STELLARIA GRAMINEA</i> L.	FACH
<i>SOLANUM DULCAMARA</i> L.	FAC-	<i>STELLARIA LONGIFOLIA</i> MUHL. EX WILLD.	FACH
<i>SOLANUM NIGRUM</i> L.	FACU-	<i>STREPTOPUS ROSEUS</i> MICHX.	FACH-
<i>SOLIDAGO ALTISSIMA</i> L.	FACU-	<i>STROPHOSTYLES HELVOLA</i> (L.) ELLIOTT	FAC-
<i>SOLIDAGO CAESIA</i> L.	FACU	<i>SUAEDA AMERICANA</i> (PERS.) FERNALD	OBL
<i>SOLIDAGO CANADENSIS</i> L.	FACU	<i>SUAEDA LINEARIS</i> (ELLIOTT) MOQ.	OBL
<i>SOLIDAGO ELLIOTTII</i> TORR. & GRAY	OBL	<i>SUAEDA MARITIMA</i> (L.) DUMORT.	OBL
<i>SOLIDAGO FLEXICAULIS</i> L.	FACU	<i>SYMPHORICARPOS ALBUS</i> (L.) BLAKE	FACU-
<i>SOLIDAGO GIGANTEA</i> AIT.	FACH	<i>SYMPLOCARPUS FOETIDUS</i> (L.) SALISB.	OBL
<i>SOLIDAGO MUTALLI</i> GREENE	FACU+	<i>TARAXACUM OFFICINALE</i> G. H. WEBER	FACU-
<i>SOLIDAGO PUBERULA</i> NUTT.	FACU-	<i>TAXUS CANADENSIS</i> MARSHALL	FAC-
<i>SOLIDAGO RUGOSA</i> MILL.	FAC	<i>TEUCRIUM CANADENSE</i> L.	FACH
<i>SOLIDAGO SEMPERIRENS</i> L.	FACH	<i>THALICTRUM DASYCARPUM</i> FISCH. & AVE-LALL.	FACH
<i>SOLIDAGO SPATHULATA</i> DC.	FACU-	<i>THALICTRUM DIOICUM</i> L.	FAC
<i>SOLIDAGO STRICTA</i> AIT.	FACH	<i>THALICTRUM PUBESCENS</i> PURSH	FAC+
<i>SOLIDAGO ULIGINOSA</i> NUTT.	OBL	<i>THELYPTERIS HEXAGONOPTERA</i> (MICHX.) WEATHERBY	FAC
<i>SOLIDAGO X ASPERULA</i> DESF.	OBL*	<i>THELYPTERIS NOVEBORACENSIS</i> (L.) NIEUWL.	FAC
<i>SONCHUS ASPER</i> (L.) J. HILL	OBL	<i>THELYPTERIS SIMULATA</i> (DAVENP.) NIEUWL.	FACH
<i>SPARGANIUM AMERICANUM</i> NUTT.	OBL	<i>THELYPTERIS THELYPTERIDES</i> (MICHX.) J. HOLLUB	FAC+
<i>SPARGANIUM ANDROCLADUM</i> (ENGELM.) MORONG	OBL	<i>THLASPI ARVENSE</i> L.	NI
<i>SPARGANIUM CHLOROCARPUM</i> RYDB.	OBL	<i>THULIA OCCIDENTALIS</i> L.	FACH
<i>SPARGANIUM EURYCARPUM</i> ENGELM. EX GRAY	OBL	<i>TILIA AMERICANA</i> L.	FACU
<i>SPARTINA ALTERNIFLORA</i> (HARTM.) FR.	OBL	<i>TOXIGODENDRON QUERCIFOLIA</i> (MICHX.) GREENE	FACU
<i>SPARTINA CAESPITOSA</i> A. A. EAT.	OBL	<i>TOXIGODENDRON RADICANS</i> (L.) KUNTZE	FAC
<i>SPARTINA PATENS</i> (AIT.) MUHL.	FAC+	<i>TOXIGODENDRON RYDBERGII</i> (SMALL EX RYDB.) GREENE	FAC-
<i>SPARTINA PECTINATA</i> LINK	OBL	<i>TOXIGODENDRON VERNIX</i> (L.) KUNTZE	OBL
<i>SPERGULARIA CANADENSIS</i> (PERS.) D. DON	OBL	<i>TRIADENUM FRASERI</i> (SPACH) GLEASON	OBL
<i>SPERGULARIA MARINA</i> (L.) GRISEB.	OBL	<i>TRIADENUM VIRGINICUM</i> (L.) RAF.	OBL
<i>SPERGULARIA RUBRA</i> (L.) J. & K. PRESL	FACU	<i>TRIDENS FLAVUS</i> (L.) A. HITCHC.	FACU*
<i>SPHENOPHOLIS OBTUSATA</i> (MICHX.) SCRIBN.	FAC-	<i>TRIENTALIS BOREALIS</i> RAF.	FAC
<i>SPHENOPHOLIS PENNSYLVANICA</i> (L.) A. HITCHC.	OBL	<i>TRIFOLIUM HYBRIDUM</i> L.	FACU-
<i>SPIRAEA JAPONICA</i> L. F.	FACU-	<i>TRIFOLIUM PRATENSE</i> L.	FACU-
<i>SPIRAEA LATIFOLIA</i> (AIT.) BORKH.	FAC+	<i>TRIFOLIUM REPENS</i> L.	OBL
<i>SPIRAEA TOMENTOSA</i> L.	FACH	<i>TRIGLOCHIN MARITIMUM</i> L.	OBL
<i>SPIRANTHES GERNUA</i> (L.) L. C. RICH.	FACH	<i>TRIGLOCHIN PALUSTRE</i> L.	FACH
<i>SPIRANTHES GRAYI</i> AMES	FACU-	<i>TRILLIUM CERNUUM</i> L.	FACH
<i>SPIRANTHES LACERA</i> (RAF.) RAF.	FACU-	<i>TRILLIUM ERECTUM</i> L.	FACU-
<i>SPIRANTHES LUCIDA</i> (H. H. EAT.) AMES	FACH	<i>TRILLIUM UNDULATUM</i> WILLD.	FACU*
		<i>TRIODANIS PERFOLIATA</i> (L.) NIEUWL.	FAC

Symbology: OBL (Obligate), FACW (Facultative Wetland), FAC (Facultative), FACU (Facultative Upland), NI (no indicator assigned), \* (limited ecological information), + (higher portion of frequency range), and - (lower portion of frequency range). See discussion of hydrophyte definition and concept in Chapter 6.

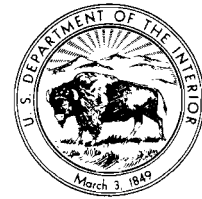
Plant Species that Occur in Rhode Island's Wetlands (Continued)

GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	R I I N D	GENUS-SPECIES-AUTHOR-TRINOMIAL	AUTHOR	R I I N D
TRIPSACUM DACTYLOIDES (L.) L.		FACW	VIOLA BLANDA WILLD.		FACW
TSUGA CANADENSIS (L.) CARRIERE		FACU	VIOLA CONSPERSA REICHEMB.		FACW
TUSSILAGO FARFARA L.		FACU	VIOLA CUCULLATA AIT.		FACW+
TYPHA ANGUSTIFOLIA L.		OBL	VIOLA INCOGNITA BRAINERD		FACW
TYPHA LATIFOLIA L.		OBL	VIOLA LANCEOLATA L.		OBL
TYPHA X GLAUCA GODR.		OBL	VIOLA NEPHROPHYLLA GREENE		FACW
ULMUS AMERICANA L.		FACW-	VIOLA PALLENS (BANKS) BRAINERD		OBL
ULMUS RUBRA MUHL.		FAC	VIOLA PAPILLIONACEA PURSH		FAC
URTICA DIOICA L.		FACU	VIOLA PENNSYLVANICA MICHX.		FACU+
URTICULARIA BIFLORA LAM.		OBL	VIOLA PRIMULIFOLIA L.		FACU-
URTICULARIA CORNUTA MICHX.		OBL	VIOLA PUBESCENS AIT.		FACU-
URTICULARIA GEMINISCAPA L. BENJ.		OBL	VIOLA ROTUNDFOLIA MICHX.		FACU+
URTICULARIA GIBBA L.		OBL	VIOLA SAGITTATA AIT.		FACU-
URTICULARIA INTERMEDIA HAYNE		OBL	VIOLA SEPTENTRIONALIS GREENE		FACU
URTICULARIA MACRORHIZA LECONTE		OBL	VIOLA SORORIA WILLD.		FACU-
URTICULARIA MINOR L.		OBL	VIOLA STRIATA AIT.		FACW
URTICULARIA PURPUREA WALTER		OBL	VITIS AESTIVALIS MICHX.		FACU
URTICULARIA RADICATA SMALL		OBL	VITIS LABRUSCA L. H. BAILEY		FACU
URTICULARIA RESUPINATA B. GREENE		OBL	VITIS NOVAE-ANGLIAE FERNALD		NI
URTICULARIA SUBULATA L.		OBL	VITIS RIPARIA MICHX.		FACW
UVULARIA PERFORATA L.		FACU	VITIS VULPINA L.		FAC
UVULARIA SESSILIFOLIA L.		FACU-	WOODWARDIA AREOLATA (L.) T. MOORE		FACW+
VACCINIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM AIT.		FACU-	WOODWARDIA VIRGINICA (L.) J. E. SMITH		OBL
VACCINIUM CAESARIENSE HACKENZ.		OBL	XANTHIUM SPINOSUM L.		FACU
VACCINIUM MACROCARPON AIT.		FACW-	XANTHIUM STRUMARIUM L.		FACW+
VACCINIUM OXYCOCCUS L.		OBL	XYRIS CAROLINIANA WALTER		OBL
VACCINIUM STAMINEUM L.		FACU-	XYRIS DIFFORMIS CHARM.		OBL
VALLISNERIA AMERICANA MICHX.		OBL	XYRIS MONTANA RIES		OBL
VERBENA HASTATA L.		FACW+	XYRIS SMALLIANA NASH		OBL
VERBENA OFFICINALIS L.		FACW+	XYRIS TORTA J. E. SMITH		OBL
VERBENA URICIFOLIA L.		FACW+	ZANNICHELLIA PALUSTRIS L.		OBL
VERBESINA ALTERNIFOLIA (L.) BRITTON		FACU	ZIZANIA AQUATICA L.		FAC
VERBESINA ENCLIODES (CAV.) BENTH. & HOOK. EX GRAY		FACU-	ZIZIA APTERA (GRAY) FERNALD		FAC
VERONIA NOVEBORACENSIS (L.) MICHX.		FACW+	ZIZIA AUREA (L.) W. KOCH		OBL
VERONICA AMERICANA SCHWEINITZ EX BENTH.		OBL	ZOSTERA MARINA L.		OBL
VERONICA ANAGALLIS-AQUATICA L.		NI			
VERONICA ARVENSIS L.		FACU-			
VERONICA OFFICINALIS L.		FACU-			
VERONICA PERGRINA L.		OBL			
VERONICA SCUTELLATA L.		FAC+			
VERONICA SERPYLLIFOLIA L.		FACU			
VERONICASTRUM VIRGINICUM (L.) FARN.		FACW			
VIBURNUM CASSINGOIDES L.		FAC			
VIBURNUM DENTATUM L.		FAC			
VIBURNUM LANTANOIDES MICHX.		FAC			
VIBURNUM LENTAGO L.		OBL			
VIBURNUM NUDUM L.		FACU-			
VIBURNUM RECOGNITUM FERNALD		FACU-			
VICIA SATIVA L.		FAC			
VIOLA ADUNCA J. E. SMITH					

Symbology: OBL (Obligate), FACW (Facultative Wetland), FAC (Facultative), FACU (Facultative Upland), NI (no indicator assigned), \* (limited ecological information), + (higher portion of frequency range), and - (lower portion of frequency range). See discussion of hydrophyte definition and concept in Chapter 6.



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.



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