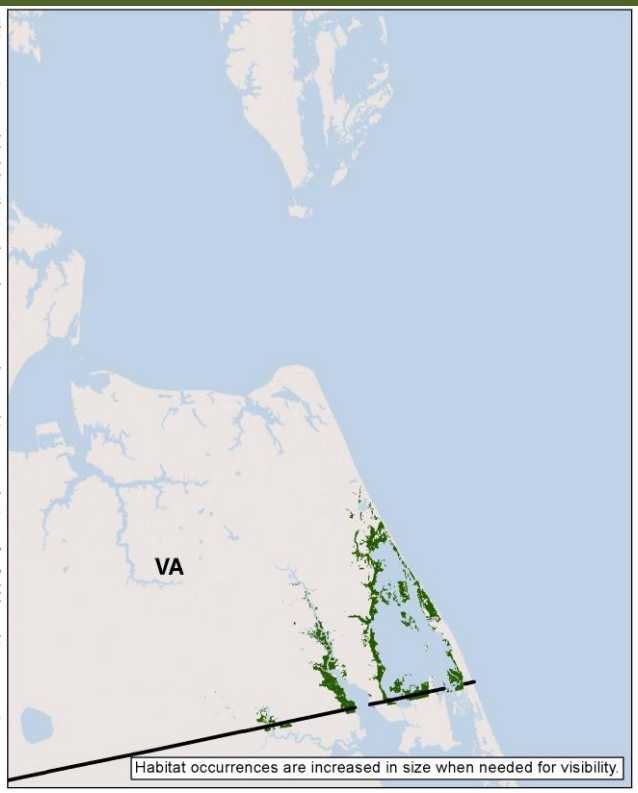
Atlantic Coastal Plain Embayed Region Tidal Freshwater/Brackish Marsh

Macrogroup: Tidal Marsh



This map is a modeled distribution based on current data and is not a substitute for field based inventory. Contact your State Natural Heritage Ecologist for more information about this habitat.

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State Distribution: VA

Total Habitat Acreage: 13,051

Percent Conserved: 69.1%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	100%	13,051	6,992	2,030	4,029

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Oligohaline Tidal Shrub Swamp (VA)

Description:

A emergent marsh of the embayed region of southeastern Virginia and adjacent North Carolina. The water is fresh to slightly brackish (oligohaline) over most of the tidal areas, with brackish and saltwater only near the coast and near barrier island inlets. Oligohaline marshes, predominant in the drowned creeks and inland estuary shores, typically occur as complexes dominated by large graminoids such as salt hay, bulrushes, cattails, and rushes, sometimes with species-rich associations of shorter graminoids, forbs, and floating or submerged aquatics. Brackish marshes tend to be low diversity, sometimes a single plant species, found on intertidal flats cut off from direct oceanic influence by protective barrier islands. Embedded within the matrix of marshes are smaller salt pannes.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

These wetlands are associated with the extensive brackish water and wind tidal flooding characteristic of the region. They are driven by irregular wind tides, with minimal lunar tidal influence. Irregular flooding, variations in salinity, fire, and sea-level rise are important drivers of ecosystem dynamics.

Similar Habitat Types:

Most of these marshes give way to tidal swamps inland and upstream, but some occur on islands. The irregular wind tidal flooding, with periodic shallow flooding for days at a time at all times of the year, make for lower sediment transport and lower productivity, and distinguish this system from other tidal marshes in the region.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Wetland Habitat - Emergent (VA)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge | VA
False Cape State Park | VA
Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge | VA
North Landing River Preserve | VA

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

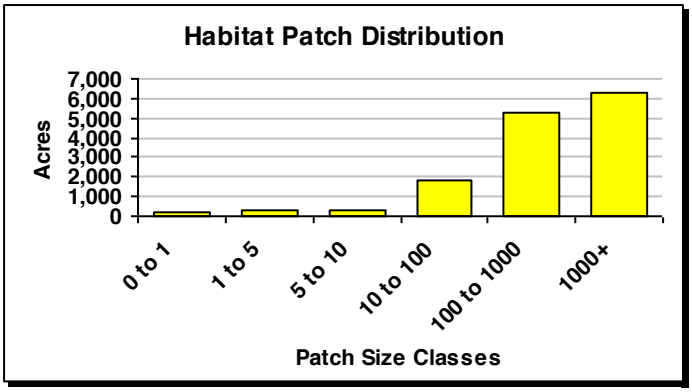
BIRDS: black skimmer, black-crowned night-heron, clapper rail, forster's tern, glossy ibis, king rail, least bittern, least tern, marsh wren, royal tern, snowy egret, tri-colored heron, yellow-crowned night-heron

PLANTS: american lipocarpha (Lipocarpha maculata), american waterwort (Elatine americana), common frog-fruit (Phyla nodiflora), creeping seedbox (Ludwigia repens), long-stalked crowfoot (Ranunculus hederaceus), low nutrush (Scleria verticillata), river bulrush (Schoenoplectus fluviatilis), rooted spikerush (Eleocharis radicans), sandpaper vervain (Verbena scabra), seaside heliotrope (Heliotropium curassavicum), tuberous grass-pink (Calopogon tuberosus), white-top fleabane (Erigeron vernus), eastern wild rice (Zizania aquatica)

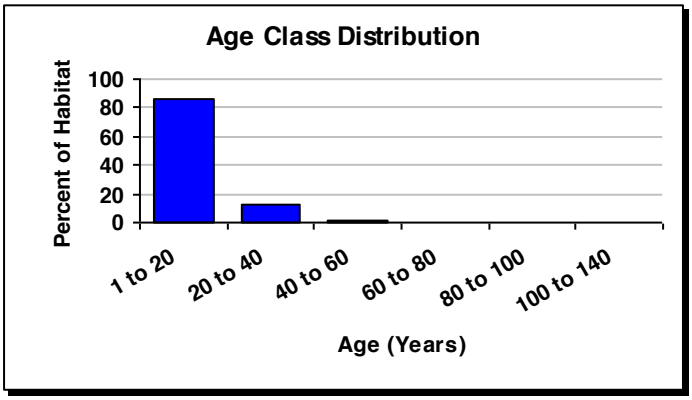
Species of Concern (G1-G4): *Appendix lists scientific names*

INSECTS: Dukes' skipper

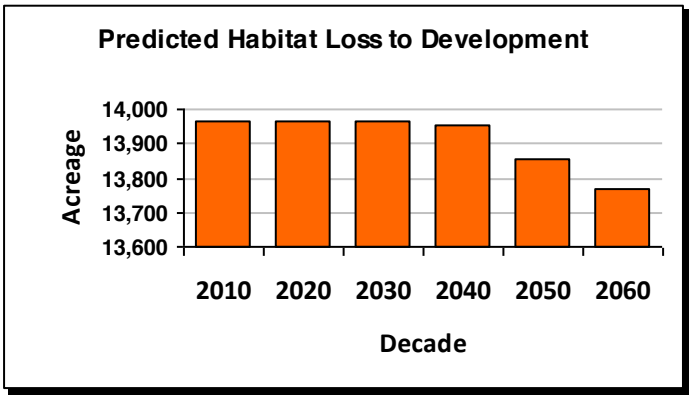
PLANTS: bog rush (Juncus elliottii), carolina lilaeopsis (Lilaeopsis carolinensis), cypress-knee sedge (Carex decomposita), elliott's aster (Symphyotrichum elliotii), wide-leaved yellow-eyed grass (Xyris laxifolia var. iridifolia), winged seedbox (Ludwigia alata)



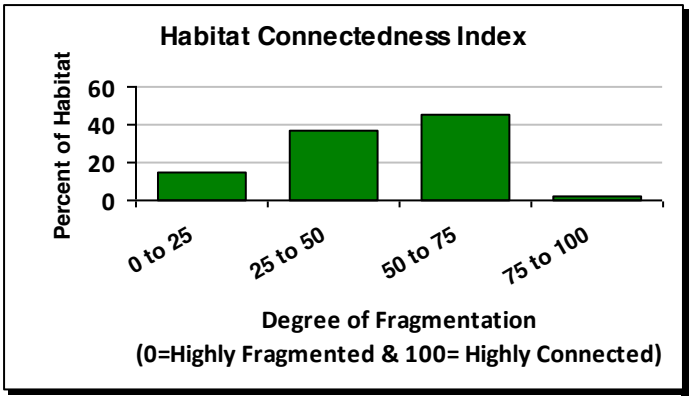
The average patch size for this habitat is 20 acres and the largest single patch is 1,916 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



This chart shows the average age of trees associated with this habitat based on forest Inventory data. For non-forested systems or small habitats the average age is influenced by the surroundings.



This chart shows the predicted loss of habitat over the next five decades (198 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 4 acres per year.



This metric measures how connected or fragmented the land directly surrounding (18 square miles) the habitat is, this the chart shows the proportion of the habitat in each connectedness class.