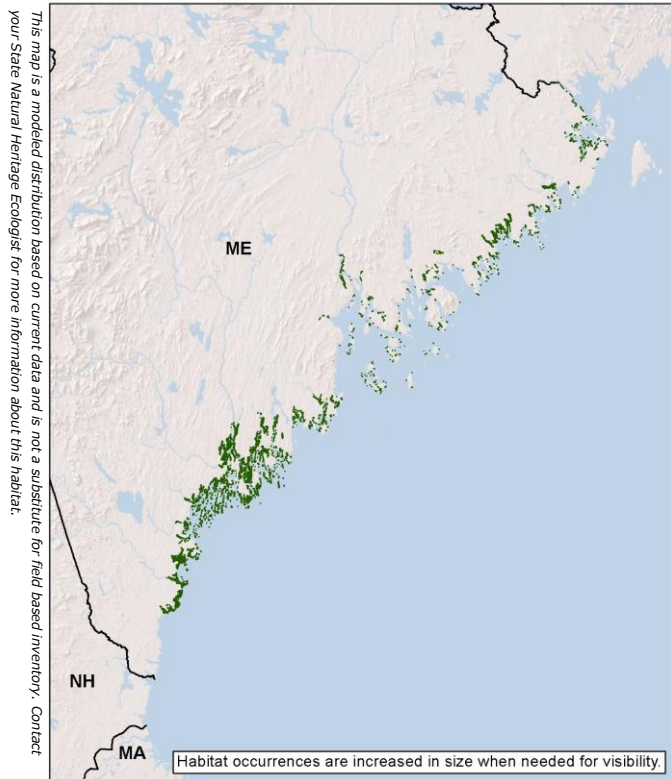




Macrogroup: Tidal Marsh



© Josh Royte (The Nature Conservancy, Maine)

Description:

A saltwater and brackish marsh that occurs along the immediate ocean shore and estuary mouths of the Gulf of Maine. Sometimes called "salt meadows," these marshes display strong graminoid dominance, with patchy forbs. Salt hay and smooth cordgrass are the major dominants. For the purposes of mapping, these include the uncommon salt ponds sometimes found behind barrier beaches, and the marshes found along brackish estuaries of the Gulf of Maine. In brackish occurrences, dominance ranges from extensive bulrush beds and tall grasses and sedges to sparsely vegetated mudflat. Where the coastal topography becomes more dissected, they are commonly seen as a fairly narrow fringe along tidal shorelines.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

These marshes may be extensive where the local topography allows; however, they are generally not associated with sand beach and dune systems, being more characteristic of the primarily rocky portions of the Gulf of Maine coast.

Similar Habitat Types:

Typically less extensive than the marshes southward along the Atlantic Coast from New Hampshire down to Chesapeake Bay; the vegetation also differs floristically somewhat from salt marshes to the south.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Estuarine Emergent Saltmarsh (ME)

State Distribution: ME

Total Habitat Acreage: 30,065

Percent Conserved: 23.8%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
ME	100%	30,065	2,613	4,540	22,912

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Spartina Saltmarsh (ME)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge | ME
 Popham Beach | ME
 R. Waldo Tyler Wildlife Management Area | ME
 Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge | ME
 Scarborough Wildlife Management Area | ME

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: black-crowned night-heron, glossy ibis, laughing gull, least bittern, nelson's sparrow, northern harrier, saltmarsh sparrow, seaside sparrow

HERPTILES: brownsnake

INSECTS: big bluet, spot-winged glider

PLANTS: Annual Saltmarsh Aster (*Symphotrichum subulatum*), Beaked Spikerush (*Eleocharis rostellata*), Dwarf Glasswort (*Salicornia bigelovii*), Horned Pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*), Mudwort (*Limosella australis*), Saltmarsh Aster (*Symphotrichum subulatum*), Saltmarsh Bulrush (*Schoenoplectus maritimus*), Saltmarsh False Foxglove (*Agalinis maritima*), Salt-marsh Sedge (*Carex recta*), Sea-beach Sedge (*Carex silicea*), Slender Blue Flag (*Iris prismatica*), Water Pimpernel (*Samolus valerandi* ssp. *parviflorus*), Water Pygmyweed (*Crassula aquatica*)

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

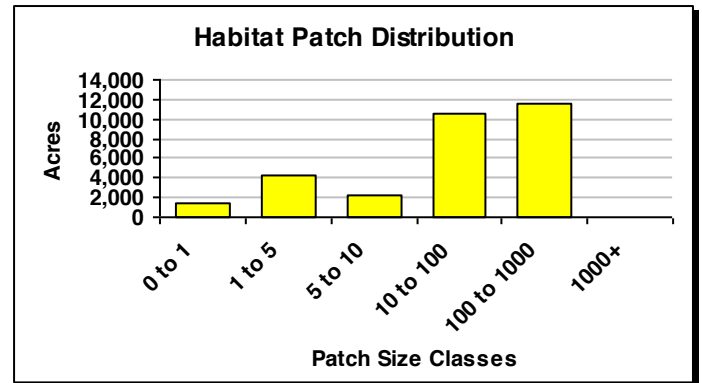
BIRDS: roseate tern, short-eared owl

MAMMALS: new england cottontail

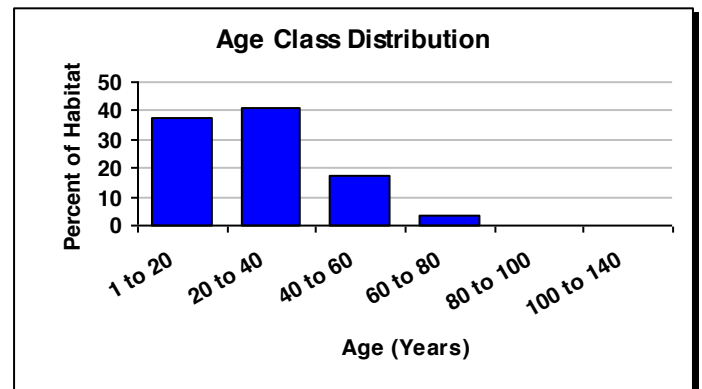
PLANTS: Beach Plum (*Prunus maritima*), Eaton's Beggarticks (*Bidens eatonii*), Estuary Beggarticks (*Bidens hyperborea*), Estuary Monkeyflower (*Mimulus ringens* var. *colpophilus*), Gaspé Peninsula Arrow-grass (*Triglochin gaspensis*), Herbaceous Seepweed (*Suaeda maritima*), Long's Bittercress (*Cardamine longii*), Parker's Pipewort (*Eriocaulon parkeri*)



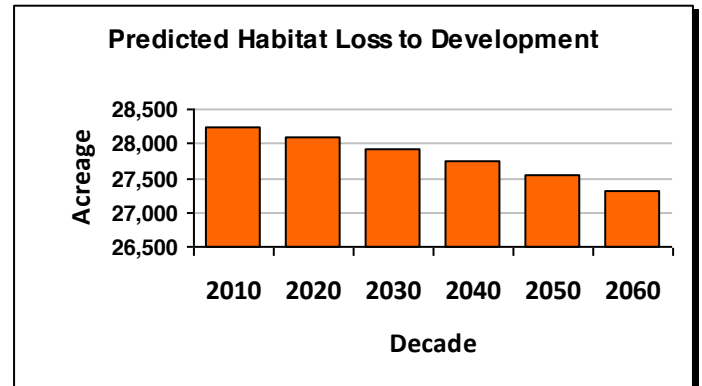
© Maine Natural Areas Program



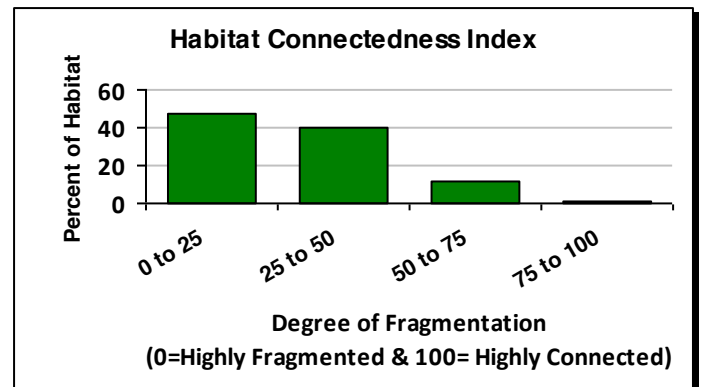
The average patch size for this habitat is 4 acres and the largest single patch is 832 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (911 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 18 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.