

# Developing Indicators for the Bay of Fundy to Long Island Sound

## 8. Marine Aquatic Habitat

Along our shorelines is a variety of aquatic habitats including intertidal zones (salt marshes, seagrass and seaweed beds, rocky shores) and subtidal zones (deep ocean benthic habitat, reefs, oyster beds, hard bottoms) (US EPA, 2001). These areas are some of the most ecologically dynamic and productive zones of the region. For example, salt marshes, submerged seaweed and seagrass beds, and rocky barrier islands enhance the productivity of nearshore and estuarine waters. Many fish and shellfish species rely on a variety of nearshore aquatic habitats including salt marsh plants, seagrasses, and seaweeds for spawning and shelter for juveniles. A diverse and healthy marine aquatic habitat that includes riverine pathways, nurseries, and breeding grounds is important in the survival of aquatic populations and is a distinct and essential component of the overall ecology.

### 30. How important are the following marine aquatic habitat issues?

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Changes in the extent and quality of submerged aquatic vegetation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Changes in the extent and quality of coastal and tidal wetlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coastal armoring and sediment management practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Type, location and effects of restoration activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Changes in sediment character and quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health and diversity of aquatic habitats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### 31. Suggested Additional Marine Aquatic Habitat Issues:

- a.
- b.
- c.

### 32. How useful are the following themes in communicating the status and trends of marine aquatic habitats?

	Very Useful	Useful	Somewhat Useful	Not Useful
Water quality (temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, light transmissivity,	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

turbidity)

Extent and distribution of various benthic habitats (e.g., eel grass, wetlands)



Extent and location of non-native species



Shoreline armoring and sediment movement



Biodiversity index



**33. Suggested Additional Marine Aquatic Habitat Themes:**

a.

b.

c.