

# GLOSSARY



**alginate**

gelatinous substance derived from certain seaweeds, used as a thickener

**anadromous**

ocean-living species that must migrate into fresh water to spawn

**aquaculture**

farming of crops in water, including fish and shellfish

**arthropods**

invertebrates belonging to phylum Arthropoda, including crustaceans

**benthic**

animals or plants that live or feed on or near the sea floor

**byssus**

strong elastic threads produced and used by mussels to attach to hard surfaces

**camouflage**

ability to blend with one's surroundings

**carapace**

hard shell covering head and thorax of a crustacean

**carrageenan**

substance derived from seaweed, used to make products creamy and smooth

**catadromous**

lives in fresh water streams but migrates to salt water to spawn

**cilia**

microscopic hairlike processes extending from cell, often capable of rhythmic motion

**cnidarian**

invertebrate animals belonging to phylum Cnidaria, including jellyfish, sea anemones and corals

**crustacean**

lobsters, crabs, shrimp, and barnacles; arthropods belonging to Class Crustacea

**cultch**

clean shell, placed on shellfish beds to encourage settling of oyster larvae

**detritivore**

organism that consumes dead and decaying material

**echinoderm**

radially symmetrical invertebrates belonging to phylum Echinodermata, including sea stars, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers

**ecosystem**

an ecological community and its environment

**epifauna**

organisms that live on the surface of sediments

**estuary**

a body of water where fresh water and salt water meet and mix

**exoskeleton**

external protective/supporting structure of many invertebrates, an outer shell

**flagellum**

whiplike organ of locomotion of a dinoflagellate

**food web**

a complex of interrelated food chains in an ecological community

**gastropod**

a mollusk that has a single, usually coiled shell, including snails and limpets

**herbivore**

an organism that consumes plants

**hermaphrodite**

animal with both male and female reproductive organs

**high marsh**

part of the marsh that floods during storm events and bi-monthly spring tides

**holdfast**

structure by which seaweeds attach to hard surfaces

**hydroids**

a colonial organism that has a polyp as its dominant life stage

**infauna**

organisms that live within the sediments

**intertidal zone**

the region between the extremes of high and low tide

**invasive**

an organism, often non-native, that spreads rapidly and becomes dominant

**invertebrate**

animal without a backbone

**low marsh**

part of the marsh that is regularly flooded by tides

**luminesce**

emits light produced by a chemical or biochemical reaction

**macroalgae**

large algae or seaweeds

**madreporite**

sieve plate on top of sea star through which water enters

**mollusks**

invertebrates belonging to the phylum Mollusca, including snails, bivalves and nudibranchs

**molt**

process of crustacean growth during which the outer exoskeleton is shed and replaced by a new, larger exoskeleton

**nematocysts**

tiny stinging cells in various cnidarians, like jellyfish, that chemically paralyzes its victim

**nitrogen fixer**

plants in the legume family that have bacteria associated with their root systems; the bacteria convert or "fix" nitrogen from the air and use it for growth

**notochord**

primitive backbone

**omnivore**

animal that consumes both plants and animals

**operculum**

small piece of shell that seals the opening of snail shells

**palps**

elongated sensory organ, usually near the mouth, of mollusks and crustaceans

**pelagic**

relating to, or living in, open water

**phytoplankton**

microscopic, floating plants; photosynthetic organisms

**predators**

an animal that feeds on other organisms

**prey**

an organism hunted or caught for food

**radula**

a tongue-like organ in snails, with rows of teeth, used for scraping algae

**salt panne**

depression in salt marsh where water collects and evaporates, leaving soil with high salinity concentration

**spring tide**

higher than average tides twice a month with the full and new moons

**telson**

the tail of a horseshoe crab

**tunicate**

a chordate marine animal of the subphylum Urochordata, having cylindrical bodies enclosed in a tough outer "tunic", includes the sea squirts and salps

**uplands**

the portion of a salt marsh that transitions from the high marsh to the forest

**wrack line**

the line of dead and decaying matter or vegetation (usually seaweed and eelgrass) found along the high tide line on a beach

**zooplankton**

small, often microscopic animals that drift in currents as part of the plankton



# RESOURCES



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**[www.lisrc.uconn.edu](http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu) (Long Island Sound Resource Center, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the University of Connecticut)**

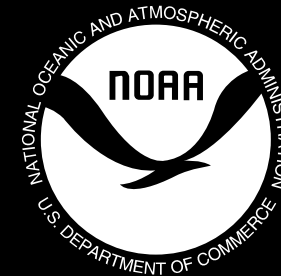
**[www.seagrants.uconn.edu](http://www.seagrants.uconn.edu) (Connecticut Sea Grant, University of Connecticut)**

**[www.seagrants.sunysb.edu](http://www.seagrants.sunysb.edu) (New York Sea Grant Institute)**

**[www.longislandsoundstudy.net](http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net) (EPA Long Island Sound Study)**

**[www.mysound.uconn.edu](http://www.mysound.uconn.edu) (University of Connecticut Dept. of Marine Sciences)**

**The Long Island Sound Study (LISS)** is a partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies, private organizations, and educational institutions working together to restore and protect Long Island Sound. This research, management, and education project began in 1985 as part of the National Estuary Program under the federal Clean Water Act. In 1994, the LISS partners completed development of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Long Island Sound, and implementation of this plan is on-going.



**The Connecticut Sea Grant College Program** is a partnership between the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program and The University of Connecticut. Along with New York Sea Grant, it is one of a network of 32 university-based non-profit programs in the coastal and Great Lake states. Established by Congress in 1966, Sea Grant fosters the conservation and wise use of our coastal and marine resources by supporting research, providing extension and technology transfer services, and raising public awareness of coastal and marine environments through educational programs.





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