



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 (Long Island Sound Resource Center, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the University of Connecticut)

www.seagrant.uconn.edu (Connecticut Sea Grant, University of Connecticut)

www.seagrant.sunysb.edu (New York Sea Grant Institute)

www.longislandsoundstudy.net (EPA Long Island Sound Study)

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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