

## GLOSSARY

<b>Abdomen</b>	The belly or cavity containing the digestive and reproductive organs
<b>Accretion</b>	Growth in size; a growing together of separate things; things added
<b>Adipose</b>	Of, like, or containing animal fat; fatty
<b>Aggregate</b>	Gather together in one mass; a growing together in one area
<b>Air Bladder</b>	A sac filled with gas, lying beneath the backbone, in or behind the abdominal cavity; also known as a swim bladder
<b>Anadromous</b>	To ascend rivers from the sea for breeding purposes
<b>Anal</b>	Pertaining to the anus or vent
<b>Anal Fin</b>	The fin on the median line behind the vent or anus
<b>Anterior</b>	The front; pertaining to the head region
<b>Anterior End</b>	The end toward which the beaks point in a bivalve shell; opposite the posterior
<b>Aperture</b>	The principle opening of the body whorl in a gastropod shell
<b>Apex</b>	The tip or point
<b>Axis</b>	The main stem or center line of any structure
<b>Barbel</b>	An elongated, fleshy projection, usually near the head; also called a whisker
<b>Benthic</b>	Pertaining to sea floor environments
<b>Benthic Organisms</b>	Those animals which live in or on the sea floor
<b>Brackish</b>	Containing less salt than normal sea water, but undrinkable
<b>Body Whorl</b>	The last whorl of a snail shell
<b>Brood Pouch</b>	A pouch where eggs or embryos develop
<b>Byssus</b>	A series of thread-like filaments that anchor a bivalve to some other surface or substrate



<b>Calcite</b>	A composition of sea shells; commonly colorless, white, or yellow, but may be of any color; transparent to opaque; vitreous
<b>Callus Lobe</b>	A hardened or thickened part
<b>Canines</b>	Long, conical teeth
<b>Cartilaginous</b>	Of or like the tough, elastic, whitish animal tissue cartilage
<b>Caudal</b>	Pertaining to the tail
<b>Caudal Fin</b>	The fin tail
<b>Caudal Peduncle</b>	The region between the anal and caudal fins
<b>Cheliped</b>	The claws of an arthropod
<b>Columella</b>	The pillar around which the whorls form their spiral circuit
<b>Compressed</b>	Flattened from side to side
<b>Concave</b>	Hollow and curved inward
<b>Concentric</b>	Curved ridges or lines on a bivalve shell which form arcs with beaks at the center
<b>Conduit</b>	A channel for conducting the flow of water or other fluid
<b>Conical</b>	Having the shape of a cone
<b>Cuesta</b>	A rock-like cap composed of sand and gravel cemented together; found on top of the Highlands of the Navesink
<b>Chondrophore</b>	A spoon-shaped structure
<b>Deck</b>	A shell-like plate under the beaks; also called the platform
<b>Denticle</b>	A small tooth or tooth-like projection
<b>Depressed</b>	Flattened vertically
<b>Dextral</b>	On the right-hand side; right-handed
<b>Dorsal</b>	Pertaining to the back; the back region of a fish body
<b>Dorsal Fin</b>	The fin located on the median line of the back
<b>Dusky</b>	Dark in color
<b>Elongated</b>	Long and narrow

**Estuary** An inlet or arm of the sea consisting of a mix of fresh and salt water  
**Feelers** A sensory extension; antennae  
**Filament** A very slender thread or fiber  
**Fin Membrane** A thin layer of tissue surrounding the fin connecting adjacent structures  
**Foreshore** Beach face; the section of beach on which waves break  
**FronD** A leaf-like structure, but lacking the complex internal structure of a true leaf  
**Garnet** A silicate mineral; commonly red, brown, or yellow; translucent to opaque; with a resinous to vitreous luster  
**Geomorphology** The branch of science dealing with the study of coastal processes and shoreline changes  
**Gills** Organs for breathing air contained in water  
**Gill Covers** The fold of skin providing external protection for the gills; may be reinforced by boney plates and covered with scales  
**Gill Rakers** A series of boney projections along the inner edge of the gill arch  
**Glauconite** Clay-like limestone; also called marl  
**Globose** Rounded; subspherical  
**Growth Lines** Lines on the surface of a shell indicating periods between growth; also called growth laminae  
**Headland** A land mass of the highest elevation in relation to areas surrounding a large body of water; i.e., the ocean  
**Hematite** Ferric iron oxide; rarely found in well-formed crystals; steel gray, reddish-brown, red, or iron black with a metallic to earthy luster; the most important iron ore  
**Hillock** A little hill  
**Holdfast** An attachment at the base of a plant  
**Hook or Hooked Spit** See "Recurved Spit"



**Hornblende** A group of complex silicates composed of calcium, magnesium, iron and aluminum; black to light green, may be opaque; highly vitreous luster on cleavage surfaces  
**Intertidal** The zone between high and low tide level  
**Inundated** Flooded; deluged, covered over  
**Jetty** A sea wall built out into the water to restrain currents, catch drifting sand and deflect wave energy away from the shore  
**Lateral** Referring to the side  
**Lateral Line** A series of mucus pores along the side of the fish, containing sense organs; often appears as a colored or whitish stripe  
**Lattice** A structure of crossed open spaces  
**Littoral** Pertaining to the tidal zone  
**Littoral Drift** The current flowing along the shoreline; the major way for transporting sand along the coastline  
**Lobe** A curved or rounded projection or division on an organ  
**Lunule** A depressed area, usually heart-shaped, in front of the beaks in many bivalve shells  
**Luster** The surface quality of a mineral depending on the kind and intensity of light it reflects; gloss  
**Mantle** A membranous flat or outer covering of the soft parts of a mollusc; secretes material to form the shell  
**Margined** Bordered or edged  
**Magnetite** A combination of iron oxides; black, opaque, metallic luster; strongly attracted by a magnet; an important iron ore  
**Membranous** Thin and sheet-like  
**Midline** A middle line  
**Midrib** A thickened central rib within the frond  
**Mottled** Marked with blotches, streaks or spots of different colors or shades

Mucilage	Thick, sticky substance produced in certain plants
Muscovite	White mica; a complex potassium aluminum silicate; thin, scale-like crystals; transparent to translucent with a pearly to vitreous luster
Nematocyst	Any of the intracellular stinging structures characteristic of all coelenterates; i.e., jellyfish
Neural Arch	That part which encloses the vertebral opening surrounding the spinal cord
Nutrient	Nourishment; food
Obliquely	Slanting position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal [/]
Ocellated	Spotted; having an ocellus or several ocelli
Ocellus	An eye-like spot; a dark spot with a lighter border
Opaque	Impervious to light; light cannot pass through
Operculum	The horny or calcareous structure formed by and attached to the foot, covering the opening of some gastropod shells
Orbit	Eye socket of a crab, lobster, or shrimp
Oscula/Osculum	An opening or pore in a sponge through which water exits
Ostium	An opening or pore in a sponge through which water enters, usually smaller than the oscula
Parapodia	One of the unjointed, lateral series of rudimentary limbs of many worms, such as annelids, used for locomotion
Peak	The initial or earliest part of a bivalve shell
Pectoral	Pertaining to the breast
Pectoral Fins	Frontal, breast fins; corresponding to the frontal limbs of the higher invertebrates
Peduncle	A depressed area, usually heart-shaped, in front of the beaks in many bivalve shells
Pelagic	Free-swimming
Peninsula	A land mass surrounded by water on three sides

Periostracum	A skinlike, outermost covering on many shells
Photosynthesis	The manufacture of food from carbon dioxide and water via chlorophyll and light
Photosynthetic	Capable of photosynthesis
Phylum	A taxonomic category or group of animals
Plankton	Drifting organisms that cannot swim against ocean currents; includes phytoplankton, (plants) and zooplankton, (animals)
Posterior	Pertaining to the tail; opposite the head region
Proboscis	A snout or trunk, with distinct structural characteristics
Pseudorostrum	Beak-like extension between the eyes of an arthropod
Quartz	Silicon dioxide (rock crystal); commonly colorless or white, but may be yellow, pink, smokey/translucent brown or black; transparent to opaque with a vitreous to greasy luster
Radiating	Applied to the ribs or lines that start at the beak and extend outward to the margins in a fan-like configuration
Radula	The "tongue" or dental apparatus of gastropods
Ray	One of the boney or cartilaginous supports of a fin; either spiny or soft, simple or branched
Receptacle	A fertile branch tip bearing cavities in which reproductive cells are produced
Recurved Spit	When the end of a spit of land is deflected towards the shore by offshore currents or by the opposing action of two or more currents; i.e., Sandy Hook
Resilifer	The socket-like structure that supports the internal ligament in certain bivalves
Resilium	The internal ligament, in a resilifer, under compressed stress
Rhizoidal	Root-like filaments which attach a plant to the substratum

**Rhizome** A roof-like subterranean stem, commonly horizontal in position; usually produces roots below and sends up shoots to the upper surface

**Ridge and Runnel** Method by which a beach zone is built up during spring and summer; caused by low wave energy conditions

**Roe** The eggs of a fish, especially while bound together in a mass

**Runnel** A trough or corrugation formed by waves or tidal currents in the foreshore or the bottom immediately offshore

**Salinity** A measure of the quantity of dissolved salt in sea water

**Salt Marsh** Peat; poorly-drained coastal swamps that are flooded by most high tides; a mixture of clays, silts, and sea grass roots

**Scales** Thin, flat, overlapping, rigid, horny plates forming the outer protective covering of fish

**Setae** A stiff hair; a bristle; a bristle-like part

**Segmented** Divided into parts or sections

**Sinuous** Having many curves, bends, or turns; winding

**Snout** That portion of the head which projects beyond the eyes

**Spherical** Globe-like in shape; round

**Spines** Sharp, pointed, protective outgrowths used for defense and locomotion

**Spire** The upper whorls, from the body whorl to the apex

**Spit** A build-up of sand, sometimes coming from an eroding cliff and carried by longshore drift, to form a smooth, curved land mass

**Stolon** Horizontal branch or portion of a plant axis; usually occurs at ground level

**Stoloniferous** Stolon-like or composed of stolons

**Stratum** A layer of material, such as sedimentary rock between other layers of rock

**Subtidal** Occurring below low tide level

**Suture** A seam line or junction of contiguous parts, such as the closure line or two bivalve shells

**Thallus** The whole plant

**Thorns** Sharp, pointed structures on a fish

**Translucent** Allowing light to pass through, but not transparent or clear

**Tubercles** A small, rounded elevation on the surface of a shell

**Umbilicus** A navel-like formation; indicates a point of attachment

**Undulation** Bending in gradual curves; wave-like; an up and down or side to side motion

**Vascular Cylinder** Pertaining to the conducting tissues of the plant axis

**Vector** A complex quantity possessing both magnitude and direction; represented by a system of equal or parallel line segments

**Veliger** The larval form of an oyster; juvenile

**Vent** The external opening of the rectum

**Ventral** The underside region; the belly

**Ventral Fins** The paired fins behind, in front of or below the pectoral fins

**Vesicle** A small cavity or sac

**Vitreous** Having a glassy appearance

**Whorl** One of the turns of a spiral shell; shaped like a coil

**Wasting Disease** A disease which once nearly wiped out the eelgrass beds along the Atlantic Coast

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## INDEX

Achiridae 102  
*Aequipecten irradians* 74  
 Agardh's Red Weed 25  
*Agardhiella tenera* 25  
 Aiptasiomorphidae 32  
*Alosa mediocris* 111  
*Alosa pseudoharengus* 112  
*Alosa sapidissima* 113  
 Alewife 112  
 American Eel 104  
 American Shad 113  
*Ammodytes americanus* 103  
 Ammodytidae 103  
*Ammophila breviligulata* 13  
*Anadara ovalis* 64  
*Anadara transversa* 64  
*Anchoa mitchilli* 117  
 Anchovy 117  
 Anemones 30  
*Anguilla rostrata* 104  
 Anguillidae 104  
 Annelida 42  
*Anomia simplex* 63  
 Anomiidae 63  
*Apeltes quadracus* 121  
 Arcidae 64  
 Arthropoda 78  
 Arthropods 78  
*Astarte castanea* 65  
 Astartidae 65  
*Asterias forbesi* 94  
 Asteroiidae 94  
*Astrangia danae* 35  
 Astrangiidae 35  
 Atherinidae 105  
 Atlantic Bonito 139  
 Atlantic Croaker 137  
 Atlantic Mackerel 141  
 Atlantic Moon Snail 62  
 Atlantic Oyster Drill 57  
 Atlantic Silverside 105  
 Atlantic Surf Clam 69  
 Atlantic Tomcod 118  
 Balanidae 79  
*Balanus balanoides* 79  
 Balloonfish 149  
 Bamboo Worm 45  
 Banded Pipefish 148  
 Banded Weeds 25  
 Barnacle 79  
 Barnacle Grass 27  
 Batrachoididae 106  
 Bay Anchovy 117  
 Bay Scallop 74  
 Beach Grass 13  
 Belonidae 107  
 Bergall 124  
 Big-Eyed Herring 112  
 Bivalve 52  
 Blackback 130  
 Black Drum 138  
 Black-fingered Mud Crab 90  
 Blackfish 123  
 Black Flounder 130  
 Black Porgy 123  
 Black Sea Bass 143  
 Black Tang 23  
 Bladder Wrack 23  
 Blood Ark 64  
 Blood Worm 44  
 Bloody Stickleback 121  
 Blowfish 149  
 Blue-claw Crab 87  
 Blue Crab 87  
 Bluefish 134  
 Blue Mussel 72  
 Blues 134  
 Bonito 139  
 Boston Mackerel 141  
 Bothidae 109  
*Botryllus schlosser* 101  
 Brackish Water 16  
 Branch Herring 112  
*Brevoortia tyrannus* 114  
 Brown Seaweed 22  
 Bunker 114  
*Busycon canaliculatum* 55

*Busycon carica* 56  
 Butterflyfish 146  
 Calico Crab 89  
*Callinectes sapidus* 87  
 Calyptraea 66-67  
*Cancer irroratus* 79  
 Cancridae 79  
*Capitella capitata* 43  
 Capitellidae 43  
 Capitellid Thread Worm 43  
 Carcharhinidae 110  
*Carcinus maenas* 88  
 Cenozoic Era 11  
*Centropristes striatus* 143  
 Ceramiaceae 25  
*Ceramium rubrum* 25  
*Cerebratulus lacteus* 41  
 Cero 142  
 Cero Mackerel 142  
 Channeled Whelk 55  
 Cherrystone Clam 77  
 Chestnut Astarte 65  
 Chlorophyta 19  
 Choppers 134  
 Chordata 99  
 Chordates 99  
 Chowders 77  
 Chub Mackerel 140  
 Clam Worm 47  
 Clupeidae 111-114  
*Clymenella torquata* 45  
 Cnidaria 30  
 Comb Jellies 37  
 Commercial Fishing 96-97  
 Common American Seahorse 147  
 Common Bonito 139  
 Common Eel 104  
 Common Jingle Shell 63  
 Common Killifish 132  
 Common Mackerel 141  
 Common Marsh Snail 54  
 Common Moon Snail 61  
 Common Mullet 128  
 Common Periwinkle 53

Common Pipefish 148  
 Common Razor Clam 76  
 Common Sea Robin 150  
 Common Shore Shrimp 86  
 Common Skate 135  
 Common Slipper Shell 66  
 Common Spider Crab 83  
 Cordgrass 14-15  
 Cottidae 115-116  
*Crangon septemspinosus* 80  
 Crangonidae 80  
*Crassostrea virginica* 73  
*Crepidula fornicata* 66  
*Crepidula plana* 67  
 Croaker 137  
 Ctenophora 37  
 Cuesta 11  
 Cunner 124  
 Current flow 18  
*Cyanea capillata* 34  
 Cyanidae 34  
*Cynoscion regalis* 129  
*Cyprinodon variegatus* 131  
 Density 16  
*Diadumene leucolena* 33  
 Diadumenidae 33  
 Dogfish 110, 145  
 Dollarfish 146  
 Doormat 109  
 Drum 138  
 Dune Stabilization 13  
 Dwarf Surf Clam 68  
 Eastern Common Star 94  
 Eastern Mud Nassa 59  
 Eastern Oyster 73  
 Eastern White Slipper Shell 67  
 Echinarachnidae 95  
*Echinarachnius parma* 95  
 Echinodermata 93  
 Eelgrass 27  
 Elver 104  
*Emerita talpoida* 80

*Ensis directus* 76  
*Enteromorpha intestinalis* 20  
 Estuarine system 16  
*Eupleura caudata* 58  
*Eurypanopeus depressus* 90  
  
 Fairmaid 144  
 Fall Herring 111  
 False Angel Wing 76  
 Fan Worm 49  
 Fatback 114  
 Fisherman's Calender 97-98  
 Flat-clawed Hermit Crab 85  
 Flowering Plants 26  
 Fluke 109  
 Four-spined Stickleback 121  
 Freshwater Eel 104  
 Freshwater Taylor 111  
 Frilled Anemone 33  
 Frostfish 118  
 Fucaceae 23  
*Fucus vesiculosus* 23  
*Fundulus heteroclitus* 132  
*Fundulus majalis* 133  
  
 Gadidae 118-120  
 Garfish 107  
 Gasterosteidae 121-122  
*Gasterosteus aculeatus* 122  
 Gastropod 52  
 Ghost Anemone 33  
 Ghost Crab 84  
 Glacial Periods 11  
 Glauconite 11  
 Globefish 149  
*Glycera americana* 44  
 Glyceridae 44  
 Golden Star Tunicate 101  
 Grass Shrimp 86  
 Grass Wrack 27  
 Grayback 112  
 Grayfish 145  
 Gray Perch 126  
 Gray Sculpin 116

Gray Trout 129  
 Green Crab 88  
 Green Eye 150  
 Green Seaweeds 19  
 Green Smelt 105  
 Grubby 115  
  
 Hacklehead 116  
*Haliplanella luciae* 32  
 Hardhead 140  
 Hard Clam 77  
 Harvestfish 146  
 Hermit Crabs 85  
 Hero Moon Snail 61  
 Hickory Shad 111  
 Highlands of the Navesink 6, 9, 11  
 Hippidae 80  
*Hippocampus hudsonius* 147  
 Hogchoker 102  
 Hollow Green Weed 20  
*Homarus americanus* 83  
 Horseshoe Crab 82  
 Hydroids 30  
  
*Idotea baltica* 81  
*Idotea triloba* 81  
 Idoteidae 81  
*Ilyanassa obsoletus* 59  
 Inner Coastal Plain 11  
 Ironsides 144  
  
 Jellyfish 30  
 Jingle Shell 63  
*Juncus roemerianus* 14  
  
 Killi 132  
 Killifish 132-133  
 King Whiting 136  
 Knobbed Whelk 56  
  
 Labridae 123-124  
 Lady Crab 89  
 Lant 103  
 Leidy's Comb Jelly 38  
 Lenni Lenape Indians 9

*Libinia emarginata* 83  
 Limolidae 82  
*Limulus polyphemus* 82  
 Lineidae 41  
 Linesider 127  
 Ling 119  
 Link Confetti 20  
 Lion's Mane 34  
 Littleneck Clam 77  
 Little Sculpin 115  
 Little Skate 135  
 Littoral Drift 17  
*Littorina littorea* 53  
 Littorinidae 53  
 Lobster 78  
 Long-clawed Hermit Crab 85  
 Longhorn Sculpin 116  
 Longneck Clam 70  
 Longshore Currents 17  
 Lumbrineridae 44  
 Lumbrinerid Thread worm 44  
*Lumbrineris fragilis* 44  
*Lunatia heros* 61  
  
*Magelona rosea* 46  
 Magelonidae 46  
 Maiden 144  
 Majidae 83  
 Maldanidae 45  
 Marl 11  
 Marine Parasites 81  
 Marsh Snail 54  
 Melampidae 54  
*Melampus bidentatus* 54  
 Melongenidae 55-56  
 Menhaden 114  
*Menidia menidia* 105  
*Menticirrhus saxatilis* 136  
*Mercenaria mercenaria* 77  
 Merlucciidae 125  
*Merluccius bilinearis* 125  
 Mesodesmatidae 68-69  
 Metridiidae 33  
*Metridium senile* 33  
*Microciona prolifera* 29  
  
 Microcionidae 29  
*Microgadus tomcod* 118  
*Micropogon undulatus* 137  
 Milky Ribbon Worm 41  
 Minkfish 136  
 Mnemidae 38  
*Mnemiopsis leidy* 38  
*Modiolus demissus* 71  
 Mole Crab 80  
*Molgula manhattersis* 100  
 Molgulidae 100  
 Mollusca 52  
 Molluscs 52  
 Moon Snails 61-62  
*Morone americana* 126  
*Morone saxatilis* 127  
 Moronidae 126-127  
 Mottled Sculpin  
 Mud Basket Shell 59  
 Mud Crab 90-91  
 Mud Dab 130  
 Mud Fiddler Crab 84  
 Mud Minnow 132  
*Mugil cephalus* 128  
 Mugilidae 128  
*Mulinia lateralis* 68  
 Mullet 128  
 Mummichog 132  
 Muricidae 57-58  
*Mustelus canis* 110  
 Myacidae 70  
*Mya arenaria* 70  
*Myoxocephalus aeneus* 115  
*Myoxocephalus octodecemspinosus* 116  
 Mytilidae 71-72  
*Mytilus edulis* 72  
  
 Nassariidae 59-60  
*Nassarius trivittatus* 60  
 Naticidae 61-62  
 Nephropsidae 83  
 Nereidae 47  
*Nereis succinea* 47



*Nereis virens* 47  
 New England Hake 125  
 Northern Fluke 109  
 Northern Kingfish 136  
 Northern Lobster 83  
 Northern Pipefish 148  
 Northern Puffer 149  
 Northern Rock Barnacle 79  
 Northern Seahorse 147  
 Northern Sea Robin 150  
  
*Ocypode quadrata* 84  
 Ocypodidae 84  
*Opsanus tau* 106  
 Ostreidae 73  
 Otolithidae 129  
 Outer Coastal Plain 11  
*Ovalipes ocellatus* 89  
 Overwash Fans 13  
 Oysters 73  
 Oyster Cracker 106  
  
 Paguridae 85  
*Pagurus longicarpus* 85  
*Pagurus pollicaris* 85  
*Palaemonetes pugio* 86  
*Palaemonetes vulgaris* 86  
 Palaemonidae 86  
*Panopeus herbstii* 90  
*Paralichthys dentatus* 109  
*Pectinaria gouldii* 48  
 Pectinariidae 48  
 Pectinidae 74  
*Peprilus triacanthus* 146  
 Periwinkle 53  
*Petricola pholadiformis* 76  
 Petricolidae 76  
 Phaeophyta 22  
 Physiography of New Jersey 12  
 Piked Dogfish 145  
 Pike Minnow 132  
 Pipefish 148  
*Placopecten magellanicus* 74  
 Pleistocene Glaciation  
 Pleurobrachiidae 39

*Pleurobrachia pileus* 39  
 Pleuronectidae 130  
 Poeciliidae 131-133  
*Pogonias cromis* 138  
 Pogy 114  
*Polinices duplicatus* 62  
 Pomatomidae 134  
*Pomatomus saltatrix* 134  
 Porgy 144  
 Porifera 28  
 Portunidae 87-89  
 Pottery Seaweed 25  
*Prionotus carolinus* 150  
*Prionotus evolans* 151  
*Pseudopleuronectes americanus* 130  
 Puppy Drum 138  
  
 Quahog 77  
 Quaternary Period 11  
  
*Raja erinacea* 135  
 Rajidae 135  
 Razor Clam 76  
 Red Bearded Sponge 29  
 Red Hake 119  
 Red Jellyfish 34  
 Red Seaweed 24  
*Rhithropanopeus harrisi* 92  
 Rhodophyta 24  
 Rhynchozoela 40  
 Ribbed Mussel 71  
 Rock Crab 79  
 Rockfish 127  
 Rockweed 23  
 Rosy Magelonas 46  
 Roundhead 136  
 Rushes 14  
  
*Sabella microphthalma* 49  
*Sabellaria vulgaris* 50  
 Sabellariidae 49-50  
*Salicornia virginica* 14  
 Salinity Levels 16  
 Sally Growler 106

Saltwort 14-15  
 Salt Wedge 16  
 Saltwater Gar 107  
 Salt Marsh Development 14  
 Sand Builder Worm 50  
 Sand Dab 108  
 Sand Dollar 93, 95  
 Sand Dunes 13  
 Sand Eel 103  
 Sand Flounder 108  
 Sand Launce 103  
 Sand Shark 110  
 Sand Shrimp 80  
 Sandy Hook's  
   -Estuarine System 16  
   -Geographic Location 6-7  
   -Geographic Sections 6  
   -Geomorphic Changes 10  
   -History 9  
   -Initial Formation 11  
   -Map 6  
   -Marshes 14-15  
   -Sediment Sources 12-13  
   -Sequential Formation 10-11  
   -Tides 17-18  
   -Vegetation 8  
*Sarda sarda* 139  
 Sawbelly 112  
 Scallops  
 Sciaenidae 136-138  
*Scomber colias* 140  
*Scomber scombrus* 141  
 Scombridae 139-142  
*Scomberomorus regalis* 142  
*Scophthalmus aquosus* 108  
 Scup 144  
 Sea Bass 143  
 Sea Goosberry 39  
 Sea Grapes 100  
 Sea Lettuce 20  
 Sea Mullet 136  
 Sea Perch 126  
 Sea Pike 107  
 Sea Robin 150-151  
 Sea Scallop 74

Sea Trout 129  
 Seaweeds 19, 22, 24  
 Seahorse 147  
 Seaside Goldenrod 15  
 Segmented Worms 42  
 Serranidae 143  
 Shad 113  
 Shad Herring 111  
 Shark Eye 62  
 Sheepshead Minnow 131  
 Shiner 105, 146  
 Shrimp 78, 80, 86  
 Silver Eel 104  
 Silver Gar 107  
 Silver Hake 125  
 Skate 135  
 Skipjack 139  
 Slipper Shell 66-67  
 Smooth Astarte 65  
 Smooth Dogfish 110  
 Snails 51  
 Snapper Blues 134  
 Snapping Shrimp 80  
 Soft Clam 70  
 Soft-shell Crab 87  
 Solenidae 76  
 Solieriaceae 25  
 Sparidae 144  
*Spartina alterniflora* 14, 15  
*Spartina patens* 14, 15  
 Sperling 105  
 Spermatophyta 26  
*Sphaeroides maculatus* 149  
 Spider Crab 83  
 Spiny Dogfish 145  
*Spisula solidissima* 69  
 Sponges 28  
 Spotted Hake 120  
 Squalidae 145  
*Squalus acanthias* 145  
 Squirrel Hake 119  
 Star Coral 35  
 Starfish 93  
 Steamer 70  
*Stenotomus chrysops* 144

Stickleback 122  
Striped Anemone 32  
Striped Bass 127  
Striped Killi 133  
Striped Mummichog 133  
Striped Sea Robin 151  
Striper 127  
Stromateidae 146  
Styelidae 101  
*Suaeda maritima*  
Summer Flounder 109  
Summer Skate 135  
Sun Dab 108  
Sundial 108  
Swellfish 149  
Syngnathidae 147-148  
*Syngnathus fuscus* 148  
  
Tautog 123  
*Tautoga onitis* 123  
*Tautoglabrus adspersus* 124  
Taylors 134  
Tertiary Period 11  
Tetraodontidae 149  
Thick-lipped Oyster Drill 58  
Thornback 122  
Thornfish 122  
Three-lined Basket Shell 60  
Three-spined Stickleback 122  
Tides 17  
Tide Runners 129  
Toadfish 106  
Tomcod 118  
Transverse Ark 64  
Triglidae 150-151  
*Trinectes maculatus* 102  
Trumpet Worm 48

*Tubularia crocea* 36  
Tubularian Hydroid 36  
Tubulariidae 36  
Tunicates 100  
*Tylosurus marinus* 107  
  
*Uca pugnax* 84  
*Ulva lactuca* 20  
Ulvaceae 20  
Unsegmented Worms 40  
Urochordata 100  
*Urophycis chuss* 119  
*Urophycis regius* 120  
*Urosalpinx cinerea* 57  
  
Veneridae 77  
  
Weakfish 129  
Weakies 129  
Whitebait 117  
White-fingered Mud Crab 92  
White Perch 126  
White Slipper Shell 67  
Whiting 125  
Windowpane 108  
Winter Flounder 130  
Worms 40, 42  
  
Xanthidae 90-92  
  
Zosteraceae 27  
*Zostera marina* 27

Notes: