

ESTUARINE STUDIES

It has only recently become apparent that in addition to supplying a complete habitat for such marine resources as oysters, clams, crabs, and bay scallops, estuaries act as important nursery grounds for many species of marine fish that are later harvested offshore. These environments are under continuous heavy pressure by such activities as diking, dredging filling, and pollution without much knowledge as to their eventual effects. It is necessary that we begin a study of "natural" estuaries and "modified" estuaries so that knowledge of the effects of various modifications will be available. This will provide a rational basis for judging the relative values of various competing uses of estuaries and marine wetlands.

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List of Projects

1. The dominant invertebrate fauna of estuaries and embayments, its distribution and abundance, and relation to hydrography.
2. Distribution of bottom invertebrates
3. Species composition and abundance of larval fish in Narragansett Bay

