

Sensitive plants and animals! • Please stay on the trail.

Mud flats matter

Countless species spend all or part of their lives here.

You may not choose a home that sinks under water twice a day, but many species do. This dance, with salt water from the sea and rain water from the land, pumps nutrients into a rich slurry of mud that supports a hidden treasure of creatures that feeds a huge ecosystem.

Average rainfall
3.3 metres (over 10 feet) yearly



SALT MARSH → MUD FLAT → SHALLOW SUB-TIDAL →

Hooded Merganser
(*Lophodytes cucullatus*)
Clear inner eyelids act like diving goggles while hunting for fish, crustaceans and aquatic insects living in eelgrass.



Storm surge

Sea level rise
Shifts tides inland

Mean high water

Tides can swing up to 4 metres (13 feet) in 6 hours

Mean sea level

Mean low water

BIOFILM

BIVALVES
(clams and oysters)

Sediments from land

Mud deposits

Sediments from ocean



Dungeness Crab
(*Metacarcinus magister*) *hasaamac*
Crabs can regrow lost claws.

CRUSTACEANS
(crabs and ghost shrimp)



Eelgrass
(*Zostera marina*) *čaa'yimc*
is an ecosystem engineer and habitat for many creatures like young salmon.

How do you identify Marsh plants?

Sedges have edges and rushes are round.

