

# Estuaries

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## Estuary

- It is an area where a freshwater river meets the ocean.
- It's also known as bay, lagoon, slough, and delta.
- They form a transition zone between river and maritime environments.



## Indian Estuaries

- 14 major, 44 medium, and 162 minor estuaries.
- It is present alongside coast of the Bay of Bengal.
- And also East and West Coast.

## Biodiversity



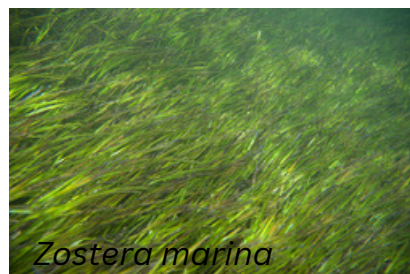
Algae



Spartina



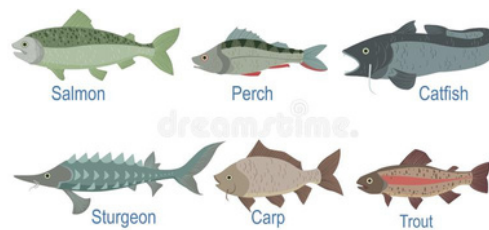
Lilium



Zostera marina



Rhizophora mangle



Salmon

Perch

Catfish

Sturgeon

Carp

Trout



Oysters



Pseudohelice annamalai



Pelicanus



## Importance

- Wide range of species from adjacent ecosystems.
- Densely populated.
- High sediment level and helps in the nutrient cycle.
- Act as a natural water filter.

## Deterioration

- Coastal cities development
- Loss of habitat for native species
- Extreme fishing
- Due to some natural disasters such as storms, floods, tsunamis etc

## How to conserve

- Stop polluting water bodies
- Limit fishing
- Proper sewage treatment before discharge
- Minimize the use of chemical fertilizers



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Reference:

<https://www.pmfias.com/mangrove-estuarine-ecosystems/>