Coastal Habitats

Description:
Coastal areas of the Hudson River Valley include a variety of diverse habitats. Examples include sand beaches, dunes, offshore islands, rocky intertidal areas, tidal wetlands, tidal rivers, tidal creeks, salt marshes, mudflats, open-water coves, and coastal grasslands.

Ecological Importance:
Coastal areas within the estuary corridor contain regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat. Waterfowl, colonial wading birds, neotropical migrants, raptors, marine and estuarine fishes, and sea turtles rely upon these diverse habitats for foraging, nesting, and wintering. Coastal habitats support many regionally rare species that are at the northern limits of their geographical range.

Conservation Strategies:
Effective conservation of coastal habitats in the Hudson River Estuary corridor will require a coordinated and collaborative effort involving federal, state, and local governments, private organizations, and coastal communities. Because of the diversity of both the habitats and issues surrounding their conservation, specific strategies are not covered here, but rather are presented within the descriptions of the significant biodiversity areas listed below.

Biodiversity areas notable for coastal habitats (Figure 8):
- Arthur Kill
- Jamaica Bay and Beaches
- Narrows
- Hudson River Estuary and Tidal Wetlands
**Figure 8.** Significant biodiversity areas in the Hudson River Estuary corridor notable for coastal habitats.