

CMECS Bottom Habitat Classification System

Classifiers													
System	Code	Subsystem	Code	Cover	Code	Class	Code	Subclass	Code	Group	Code	Biotope Comple	Biotope
Estuarine	ES	Subtidal	1	Colonized	c	Mollusc Reef	OR	Bivalve Reef					<i>Crassostrea virginica</i> oyster bank on mud
Nearshore Marine	NS	Intertidal	2					Gastropod Reef					
Neritic	NE												
Oceanic	OC					Worm Reef							
Freshwater Influenced	FI												
						Coral Reef	CR	Spur and Groove					
								Patch Reef					
								Linear Reef					
								Deep Coral Reef					<i>Oculina sp; Lophelia sp</i>
								Aggregate Reef					
								Reef Rubble					
								Scattered Hard Coral/ rock		Scattered Coral/rock in unconsolidated sediment			
										Scattered Coral/rock on hard substrate			
								Coral Garden (soft corals and sponges)					<i>Gorgonian sp.</i> on rock outcrop
						Aquatic Bed	AB	Attached Macroalgae					NVC Algal Alliances - eg <i>Caluerpa taxifolia</i> on limestone pavement
								Drift Macroalgae					
								Rooted Vascular					NVC Seagrass Alliances eg. <i>Thalassia testudinum</i>
													Permanently Flooded - Tidal Herbaceous Vegetation
													New NVC Pondweed Alliances
								Floating Vascular					
								Microbial Mat		Microphytobenthos			
										Bacterial Mat			
										Mixed phytoplankton			
						Emergent/ Shrub Wetland	EM	Coastal Marsh					NVC Saltmarsh Alliances eg. <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> Tidal Herbaceous Vegetation
								Salt Shrub Thicket					<i>Baccharis halimifolia - Iva frutescens</i> Tidal Shrubland Alliance
						Forested Wetland	FO	Mangrove		Tall Mangrove			NVC Mangrove Alliances eg. <i>Rhizophora mangle</i> Tidal Forest
										Dwarf Mangrove			
				Bare/Sparse	b	Rock Bottom	RB	Bedrock					
								Pavement					
								Boulder/Rubble					
						Unconsolidated Bottom	UB	Cobble-Gravel (>50%) (BA)					
								Sand					
								Mud (includes silt and clay)					
								Organic (>50%)		Woody Debris			
										Detritus			
										Ooze			
								Shell (50%)		Hash			
										Coquina			
								Mixed sediments					
						Rocky Shore	RS	Bedrock					
								Boulder/Rubble					
								Pavement					
						Unconsolidated Shore	US	Cobble-Gravel					
								Sand					
								Mud					
								Organic		Woody Debris			
										Peat			
										Detritus			
								Shell		Hash			
										Coquina			
								Mixed sediments (no one substrate type greater than 50%)					

