

## PENNSYLVANIA'S PRIORITY HABITATS

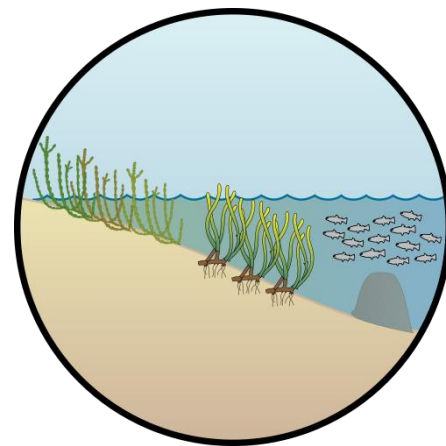
*ACFHP works to restore and conserve fish habitat in PA and along the Atlantic Coast.*

### SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION (SAV)

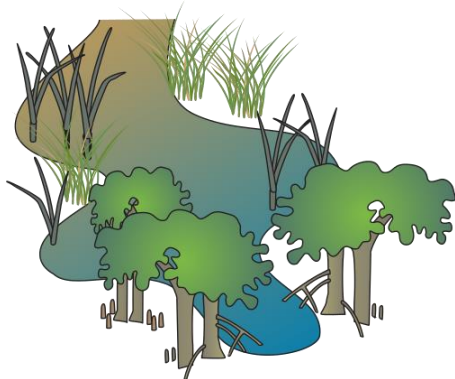
**WHAT:** Plants that live below the water's surface in large meadows or small patches.

**WHY:** SAV removes excess CO<sub>2</sub> and adds oxygen to the water and is **2x more effective** at storing carbon than terrestrial forests by acreage.

**PRIMARY THREATS:** Dredging, water quality degradation and eutrophication, and vessel operation.



### TIDAL VEGETATION



**WHAT:** Marshes found in freshwater environments.

**WHY:** Common nursery and spawning habitat for marine species, filters out pollutants and contaminants, sequesters **2-4x more carbon** per acre than tropical forests. Offers communities protection from storms, floods, and sea level rise.

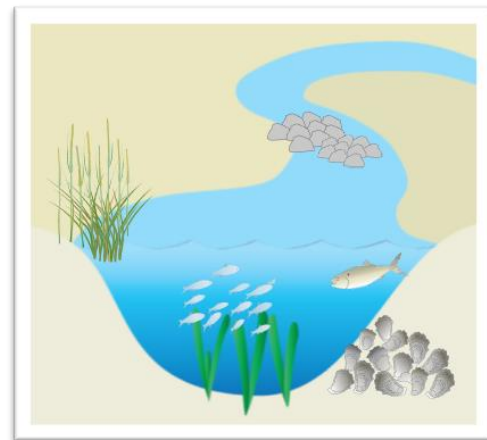
**PRIMARY THREATS:** Dredging, water quality degradation and eutrophication, and sedimentation.

### RIVERINE BOTTOM

**WHAT:** Riverine bottom from the headwaters to low gradient rivers.

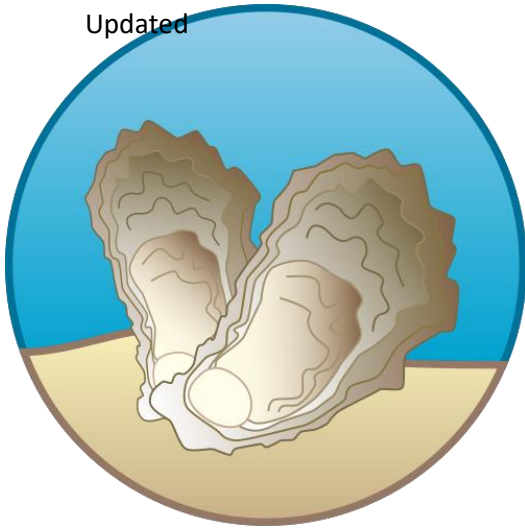
**WHY:** The bottom habitat serves as spawning and nursing grounds for many species, including American eel, river herring, shad, and Atlantic sturgeon. The sediments also hold invertebrates and vegetation that provide food for many fish species.

**PRIMARY THREATS:** Obstruction to fish passage/habitat connectivity, dredging, water quality degradation and eutrophication.



## MARINE AND ESTUARINE SHELLFISH BEDS

Updated



**WHAT:** Oyster reefs, scallop and hard clam beds, and shell accumulations.

**WHY:** Shellfish are excellent at removing excess nutrients, contaminants, and suspended sediments from the water column through filtration. They also provide habitat and food for estuarine species, stabilize sediments, and reduce the threat of coastal erosion.

**PRIMARY THREATS:** Water quality degradation and eutrophication, sedimentation, dredging and coastal maintenance.

# ACFHP's PENNSYLVANIA PARTNERS



Lisa Havel, ACFHP



**DONATE TO ACFHP**  
[atlanticfishhabitat.org/donate](http://atlanticfishhabitat.org/donate)

**LEARN MORE ABOUT ACFHP**  
Please visit [atlanticfishhabitat.org](http://atlanticfishhabitat.org)  
Or scan our QR code