

# ACCOMACK COUNTY TIDAL MARSH INVENTORY

Special Report No.138 in Applied Marine Science and Ocean Engineering

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## INTRODUCTION

This publication is the thirteenth in a series of marsh inventory reports compiled by the Department of Wetland Ecology and Environmental Impact Assessment, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. The twelve previous reports that have been published are:

Lancaster County	City of Virginia Beach
Northumberland County	(North Landing River)
Mathews County	Prince William County
York County and	King George County
the Town of Poquoson	City of Hampton
Stafford County	Fairfax County
	Gloucester County
	City of Newport News and
	Fort Eustis

Under section 62.1-13.4 of the Virginia Wetlands Act, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science is obligated to inventory the tidal wetlands of the Commonwealth. The inventory program is designed to assist wetland boards, cities, counties, planning districts and other local, state and federal agencies as well as the general public and private industry. This document, along with its companion, the Accomack County Shoreline Situation Report, VIMS SRAMSOE No. 80 is an essential document for those who are participating in the Commonwealth's ongoing Coastal Resources Management Planning Program.

A previously published study, Guidelines for Activities Affecting Virginia Wetlands, Silberhorn, Dawes and Barnard, 1974, VIMS SRAMSOE No. 46, will be helpful in the utilization of this report. Excerpts from the above document are included in the following text, explaining marsh vegetation types and their evaluation. It is our desire that these guidelines and inventory report will be useful to those concerned with conserving this valuable resource.

The maritime counties of Accomack and Northampton on Virginia's Eastern Shore contain the most extensive tidal wetlands in the Commonwealth. The wetlands of Accomack County are divided into two natural categories, the massive salt marshes along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline, situated behind the barrier islands, and the extensive brackish marshes on the Chesapeake Bay shoreline and Bay islands.

The salt marshes, dominated by Saltmarsh Cordgrass, total 46,452 acres. The brackish marshes, most of them dominated by Black Needlerush, total 23,918 acres. The grand total for the county, the largest acreage of tidal wetlands for any county in the Commonwealth, is 70,470 acres.

This report is of a larger page size than previous marsh inventory reports. This was done in order to accommodate the extensive marsh systems of this county. Maps indicating the salt marshes on the ocean side are scaled at 1:50,000. This scale increases the capacity to display large marsh tracts without a substantial loss of detail, facilitates orientation by the user and reduces publication costs by decreasing extensive pagination.

The map scale for the Chesapeake Bay marshes is 1:24,000, which affords more detail for the many small marshes found along tidal creeks.

This report is organized into 21 sections, each of which attempts to describe a significant length of shoreline. Section I through VI describe the marshes of the Atlantic Ocean shoreline and Sections VII through XXI describe the marshes of Chesapeake Bay shoreline and the Bay islands.

Many of the ocean side salt marshes are large islands of 1,000 acres or more. Others are much smaller, one acre or less and are often called "tumps." The larger marshes, whether they are islands or are connected to the leeward side of the barrier islands, usually have a network of dendritic creeks and guts.

Tall-form Saltmarsh Cordgrass, often obtaining heights of 5 or 6 feet, is commonly found along the margins of guts, creeks or channels. The short-form of Saltmarsh Cordgrass, the most common form of this species, is found in the areas of the marsh farther away from the waterways. This less vigorous form occupies areas that are near the upper limits of tidal inundation. Virginia Saltwort, Salicornia virginiana is often found associated with short form Cordgrass in these areas. At slightly higher elevations, usually on a sandy substrate, three different species of Saltwort is commonly the dominant vegetation.

The most dominant marsh plant of the bayside marshes is Black Needlerush. Saltmarsh Cordgrass is the dominant plant in the intertidal zone. Other common species are Big Cordgrass, Saltmeadow Hay, Salt Grass, Saltmarsh Bulrush, Threesquares, Marsh Elder, Groundsel Tree and others.

Tidal mud flats, a non-vegetated form of wetland, are a very common component of the coastal ecosystem. They are important contributors to the marine food web, but unfortunately are not protected by Virginia's Wetlands Act of 1972.

It is indeed fortunate that most of the barrier islands and many of the adjacent salt marshes are owned by the Nature Conservancy, a conservation organization that receives it's support from public funds. This coastal complex remains one of the most natural and generally undisturbed marine ecosystems on the East Coast.

## METHODS

Aerial photographs and topographic maps (U.S.G.S.) were utilized to obtain wetland locations, wetland boundaries and patterns of marsh vegetation. Acreages and wetland boundaries were substantiated by observations on foot, by boat and by low level overflights. Individual plant species percentages are quantitative estimates of coverage based on visual field inspections of every marsh. In some instances, especially in tidal freshwater areas, these percentages are subject to seasonal bias.

Marshes one quarter of an acre or larger are designated by number. Many marshes smaller than one quarter acre (usually narrow fringing marshes) are designated by the same symbol (shaded) as the larger marshes on the section maps but are not assigned a number. Small marshes (less than one acre) are exaggerated and are not indicated to scale. Information such as individual marsh acreage, plant species percentage and acreage, marsh type, and other observations are recorded in tabular form. In those instances where an individual plant species is found only in trace amounts, the symbol (-) is used.

## MARSH TYPES AND EVALUATION

For a better understanding of what is meant by marsh types, some background information is required. The personnel of the Department of Wetland Ecology and Environmental have classified twelve different common marsh types in Virginia, based on vegetational composition. These marsh types have been evaluated according to certain values and are recorded in the Guidelines report. The following is a brief outline of the wetland types and their evaluation as found in that publication.

"It is recognized that most wetlands areas, with the exception of the relatively monospecific cordgrass marshes of the Eastern Shore, are not homogeneously vegetated. Most marshes are, however, dominated by a major plant. By providing the manager with the primary values of each community type and the means of identification he then has a useful and convenient tool for weighing the relative importance of each marsh parcel. In Virginia, many wetlands management problems involve only a few acres or a fraction of an acre. The identification of plant communities permits the manager to evaluate both complete marshes and subareas within a marsh.

"Each marsh type may be evaluated in accordance with five general values. These are:

"1. Production and detritus availability. Previous VIMS reports have discussed the details of marsh production and the role of detritus which results when the plant material is washed into the water column. The term "detritus" refers to plant material which decays in the aquatic system and forms the basis of a major marine food web. The term "production" refers to the amount of plant material which is produced by the various types of marsh plants. Vegetative production of the major species has been measured and marshes have been rated in accordance with their average levels of productivity. If the production is readily available to the marine food web as detritus, a wetlands system is even more important than one of equal productivity where little detritus results. Availability of detritus is generally a function of marsh elevation and total flushing, with detritus more available to the aquatic environment in the lower, well-flushed marshes.

"2. Waterfowl and wildlife utilization. Long before marshes were discovered to be detritus producers, they were known as habitats for various mammals and marsh birds and as food sources for migratory waterfowl. Some marsh types, especially mixed freshwater marshes, are more valuable because of diversity of the vegetation found there.

"3. Erosion buffer. Erosion is a common problem. Marshes can be eroded, but some, particularly the more saline types, are eroded much more slowly than adjacent shores which are unprotected by marsh. This buffering quality is derived from the ability of the vegetation to absorb or dissipate wave energy by establishing a dense root system which stabilizes the substrate. Generally, freshwater species are less effective than saltwater plants in this regard.

"4. Water quality control. The dense growth of some marshes acts as a filter, trapping upland sediment before it reaches waterways and thus protecting shellfish beds and navigation channels from siltation. Marshes can also filter out sediments that are already in the water column. The ability of marshes to filter sediments and maintain water clarity is of particular importance to the maintenance of clam and oyster production. Excessive sedimentation can reduce the basic food supply of shellfish through reduction of the photic zone where algae grows. It can also kill shellfish by clogging their gills. Additionally marshes can assimilate and degrade pollutants through complex chemical processes, a discussion of which is beyond the scope of this paper....."

"5. Flood buffer. The peat substratum of some marshes acts as a giant sponge in receiving and releasing water. This characteristic is an effective buffer against coastal flooding, the effectiveness of which is a function of marsh type and size.

## MARSH TYPES AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

"Research and marsh inventory work accomplished by VIMS personnel indicate that 10 species of marsh vegetation tend to dominate many marshes, the dominant plant depending on water salinity, marsh elevation, soil type and other factors. The term "dominant" is construed to mean that at least 50% of the vegetated surface of a marsh is covered by a single species. Brackish and freshwater marshes often have no clearly dominant species of vegetation. These marshes are considered to be highly valuable in environmental terms."

(Edited from Guidelines for Activities Affecting Virginia Wetlands)

- |          |   |           |   |
|----------|---|-----------|---|
| Type I   | <u>Saltmarsh Cordgrass Community</u>  |           |   |
|          | a. Average yield 4 tons per acre per annum. (Optimum growth up to 10 tons per acre.)  |           |   |
|          | b. Optimum availability of detritus to the marine environment.  |           |   |
|          | c. Roots and rhizomes eaten by waterfowl and stems used in muskrat lodge construction. Also serves as nesting material for various birds. |           |   |
|          | d. Deterrent to shoreline erosion.  |           |   |
|          | e. Serves as sediment trap and assimilates flood waters.  |           |   |
| Type II  | <u>Saltmeadow Community</u>   |           |   |
|          | a. 1-3 tons per acre per annum.   |           |   |
|          | b. Food (seeds) and nesting areas for birds.  |           |   |
|          | c. Effective erosion deterrent.   |           |   |
|          | d. Assimilates flood waters.  |           |   |
|          | e. Filters sediments and waste material.  |           |   |
| Type III | <u>Black Needlerush Community</u>   |           |   |
|          | a. 3-5 tons per acre per annum.   |           |   |
|          | b. Highly resistant to erosion.   |           |   |
|          | c. Traps suspended sediments but not as effective as Type II.   |           |   |
|          | d. Somewhat effective in absorbing flood waters.  |           |   |
| Type IV  | <u>Saltbush Community</u>   |           |   |
|          | a. 2 tons per acre per annum or less.   |           |   |
|          | b. Nesting area for small birds and habitat for a variety of wildlife.  |           |   |
|          | c. Effective trap for flotsam.  |           |   |
| Type V.  | <u>Big Cordgrass Community</u>  |           |   |
|          | a. 3-6 tons per acre per annum.   |           |   |
|          | b. Detritus less available than from Type I.  |           |   |
|          |   |           | c. Habitat for small animals and used for muskrat lodges.                                 |
|          |   |           | d. Effective erosion buffer.  |
|          |   |           | e. Flood water assimilation.  |
|          |   | Type VI   | <u>Cattail Community</u>  |
|          |   |           | a. 2-4 tons per acre per annum.   |
|          |   |           | b. Habitat for birds and utilized by muskrats.  |
|          |   |           | c. Traps upland sediments.  |
|          |   | Type VII  | <u>Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed Community</u>   |
|          |   |           | a. 2-4 tons per acre per annum.   |
|          |   |           | b. Detritus readily available to marine environment.                                      |
|          |   |           | c. Seeds eaten by wood ducks.   |
|          |   |           | d. Susceptible to erosion from wave action and boat wakes, particularly in winter months. |
|          |   | Type VIII | <u>Reed Grass Community</u>   |
|          |   |           | a. 4-6 tons per acre per annum.   |
|          |   |           | b. Little value to wildlife except for cover.   |
|          |   |           | c. Invades marshes and competes with more desirable species.                              |
|          |   |           | d. Deters erosion on disturbed sites.   |
|          |   | Type IX   | <u>Yellow Pond Lily Community</u>   |
|          |   |           | a. Less than 1 ton per acre per annum.  |
|          |   |           | b. Cover and attachment site for aquatic animals and algae.                               |
|          |   |           | c. Feeding territory for fish.  |
|          |   | Type X    | <u>Saltwort Community</u>   |
|          |   |           | a. Less than 0.5 tons per acre per annum.   |
|          |   |           | b. Little value to aquatic or marsh animals.  |
|          |   | Type XI   | <u>Freshwater Mixed Community</u>   |
|          |   |           | a. 3-5 tons per acre per annum.   |
|          |   |           | b. High diversity of wildlife.  |
|          |   |           | c. High diversity of wildlife foods.  |
|          |   |           | d. Often associated with fish spawning and nursery grounds.                               |
|          |   |           | e. Ranks high as a sediment trap and nursery grounds.                                     |
|          |   | Type XII  | <u>Brackish Water Mixed Community</u>   |
|          |   |           | a. 3-4 tons per acre per annum.   |
|          |   |           | b. Wide variety of wildlife foods and habitat.  |
|          |   |           | c. Deterrent to shoreline erosion.  |
|          |   |           | d. Serves as sediment trap and assimilates flood waters.                                  |
|          |   |           | e. Known spawning and nursery grounds for fish.   |

EVALUATION OF WETLAND TYPES

(From Guidelines for Activities Affecting Virginia Wetlands)

For management purposes, the twelve types of wetlands identified above are grouped into five classifications based on the estimated total environmental value of an acre of each type.

Group One: Saltmarsh Cordgrass (Type I)  
Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed (Type VII)  
Freshwater Mixed (Type XI)  
Brackish Water Mixed (Type XII)

Group One marshes have the highest values in productivity and wildfowl and wildlife utility and are closely associated with fish spawning and nursery areas. They also have high value as erosion inhibitors, are important to the shellfish industry and valued as natural shoreline stabilizers. Group One marshes should be preserved.

Group Two: Big Cordgrass (Type V)  
Saltmeadow (Type II)  
Cattail (Type VI)

Group Two marshes are of only slightly lesser value than Group One marshes. The major difference is that detritus produced in these marshes is less readily available to the marine environment due to higher elevations and consequently less tidal action to flush the detritus into adjacent waterways. Group Two marshes have very high values in protecting water quality and acting as buffers against coastal flooding. These marshes should also be preserved, but if development in wetlands is considered to be justified it would be better to alter Group Two marshes than Group One marshes.

Group Three: Yellow Pond Lily (Type IX)  
Black Needlerush (Type III)

The two marshes in the Group Three category are quite dissimilar in properties. The yellow pond lily marsh is not a significant contributor to the food web but it does have high values to wild-life and waterfowl. Black needlerush has little wildlife value but it ranks high as an erosion flood buffer. Group Three marshes are important though their total values are less than Group One and Two marshes. If development in wetlands is considered necessary, it would be better to alter Group Three marshes than Groups One or Two.

Group Four: Saltbush (Type IV)

The saltbush community is valued primarily for the diversity and bird nesting area it adds to the marsh ecosystem. To a lesser extent it acts as an erosion buffer. Group Four marshes should not be unnecessarily disturbed but it would be better to concentrate necessary development in these marshes rather than disturb any of the marshes in the preceding groups.

Group Five: Saltwort (Type X)  
Reedgrass (Type VIII)

Based on present information Group Five marshes have few values of any significance. While Group Five marshes should not be unreasonably disturbed, it is preferable to develop in these marshes than in any other types.

For a better understanding of the Eastern Shore wetlands, the Wetlands Act of 1972, marsh types and their evaluation and other related subjects, the following publications are recommended:

Coastal Wetlands of Virginia

Interim Report No. 3

Guidelines for Activities

Affecting Virginia's Wetlands

Special Report in Applied Marine

Science and Ocean Engineering No. 46

Gene M. Silberhorn, George M. Dawes,

Thomas A. Barnard, Jr., June 1974

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062

Coastal Wetlands of Virginia

Interim Report No. 2

Special Report in Applied Marine

Science and Ocean Engineering No. 27

Kenneth Marcellus, July 1972

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062

Coastal Wetlands of Virginia Interim Report

Special Report in Applied Marine

Science and Ocean Engineering No. 10

Marvin Wass and Thomas Wright, December 1969

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062

Laws of Virginia Relating to Wetlands

and Subaqueous Waters

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

2401 West Avenue

Newport News, Virginia 23607

Wetlands Guidelines

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

2401 West Avenue

Newport News, Virginia 23607

Tidal Wetland Plants of Virginia

Educational Series No. 19

Gene M. Silberhorn, illustrated by

Mary Warriner, Aug. 1976

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062

The Flora and Ecology of Assateague

Island. Bull. A-172 E.A.T. Higgins, R.

D. Rappleye, R. G. Brown, Jan. 1971

U. of Md., College Park, Md.

The Virginia Coast Reserve Study

R. D. Dueser, M. A. Graham, G. J. Hennessey,

C. McCaffrey, A. W. Nierdoroda, T. E.

Rice, B. Williams, The Nature Conservancy

Arlington, Va. 22209

MARSH PLANTS

Common Names and Scientific Names as Found in the Data Tables

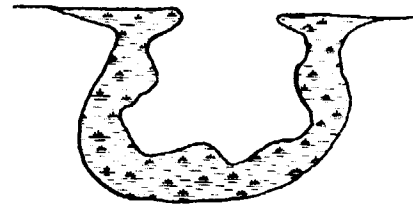
American Threesquare	<u>Scirpus americanus</u> Pers.	Salt Grass	<u>Distichlis spicata</u> (L.) Greene
*Annual Saltmarsh Aster	<u>Aster subulatus</u> Michx.	Saltworts	<u>Salicornia bigelovii</u> Torrey <u>Salicornia europaea</u> L. <u>Salicornia virginica</u> L.
Arrow Arum	<u>Peltandra virginica</u> (L.) Kunth		
Big Cordgrass	<u>Spartina cynosuroides</u> (L.) Roth.	Sea Lavender	<u>Limonium nashii</u> Small
*Black Grass	<u>Juncus gerardi</u> Loisel	Sea Oxeye	<u>Borrchia frutescens</u> (L.) DC.
Black Needlerush	<u>Juncus roemerianus</u> Scheele	Smartweeds	<u>Polygonum</u> spp.
Beggar's-ticks	<u>Bidens</u> spp.	Switch Grass	<u>Panicum virgatum</u> L.
Cattails		Tearthumbs	<u>Polygonum sagittatum</u> L. <u>Polygonum arifolium</u> L.
Broad-leaved	<u>Typha latifolia</u> L.	Water Dock	<u>Rumex verticillatus</u> L.
Narrow-leaved	<u>Typha angustifolia</u> L.	Water Hemp	<u>Amaranthus cannabinus</u> (L.) J.S. Sauer
Marsh Hibiscus	<u>Hibiscus moscheutos</u> L.	*Walters Millet	<u>Echinochloa walteri</u> (Pursh) Heller
*Marsh Mallow	<u>Kosteletskya virginica</u> (L.) Kresl.	Wild Rice	<u>Zizania aquatica</u> L.
Olney Threesquare	<u>Scirpus olneyi</u> Gray	Yellow Pond Lily	<u>Nuphar luteum</u> (L.) Sibrhrop & Smith
Pickerel-weed	<u>Pontederia cordata</u> L.		
Reed Grass	<u>Phragmites australis</u> (Cav.) Trin. ex Stend.		
Saltbushes			
Groundsel Tree	<u>Baccharis halimifolia</u> L.		
Marsh Elder	<u>Iva frutescens</u> L.		
*Saltmarsh Aster	<u>Aster tenuifolius</u> L.		
Saltmarsh Bulrush	<u>Scirpus robustus</u> Pursh.		
Saltmarsh Cordgrass	<u>Spartina alterniflora</u> Loisel		
Saltmarsh Fleabane	<u>Pluchea purpurascens</u> (Swartz) DC.		
Saltmeadow Hay	<u>Spartina patens</u> (Aiton) Muhl.		

\*Marsh species not included in Virginia's Wetlands Act of 1972.

GLOSSARY OF DESCRIPTIVE TERMS

cove marsh

a marsh contained within a concavity or recessed area on a shoreline; the marsh vegetation is usually found surrounding a central, open-water pond, and tidal flushing is permitted through an inlet.



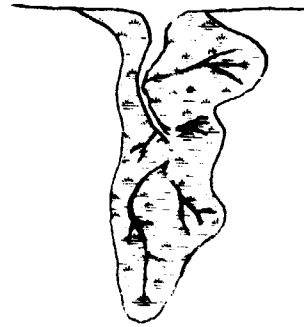
fringe marsh

a marsh which borders along a section of shoreline and generally has a much greater length than width or depth.



creek or embayed marsh

a marsh occupying a drowned creek valley; in many large creek marshes the salinity decreases headward; this type of marsh may be divided for inventory purposes into sections if significant changes in the plant community occur along its length.



high marsh

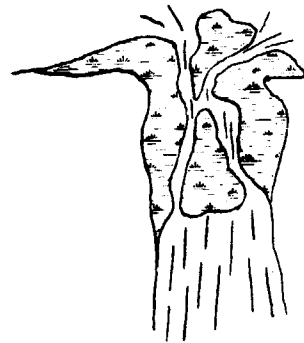
the marsh surface is at an elevation of mean high water or above; it is usually inundated less than twice daily by tidal action.

low marsh

the marsh surface is at an elevation below mean high water; it is usually inundated twice daily by tidal action.

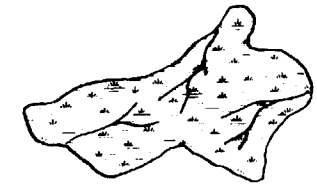
delta marsh

a marsh found growing on sediment deposited at the mouth of a tidal creek; tidal exchange through the creek mouth is usually restricted to narrow channels by the marsh.



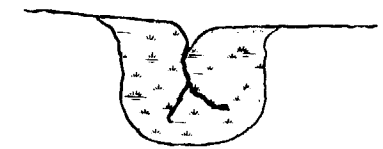
marsh island

an isolated marsh surrounded on all sides by open water; interior portions of the marsh may contain trees scattered at highest elevations.



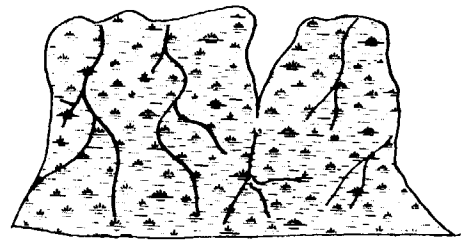
pocket marsh

a marsh contained within a small, essentially semi-circular area on a shoreline.



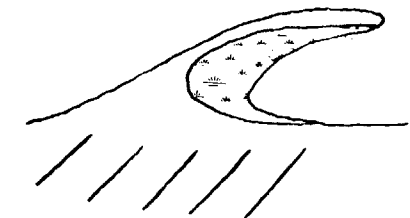
extensive marsh

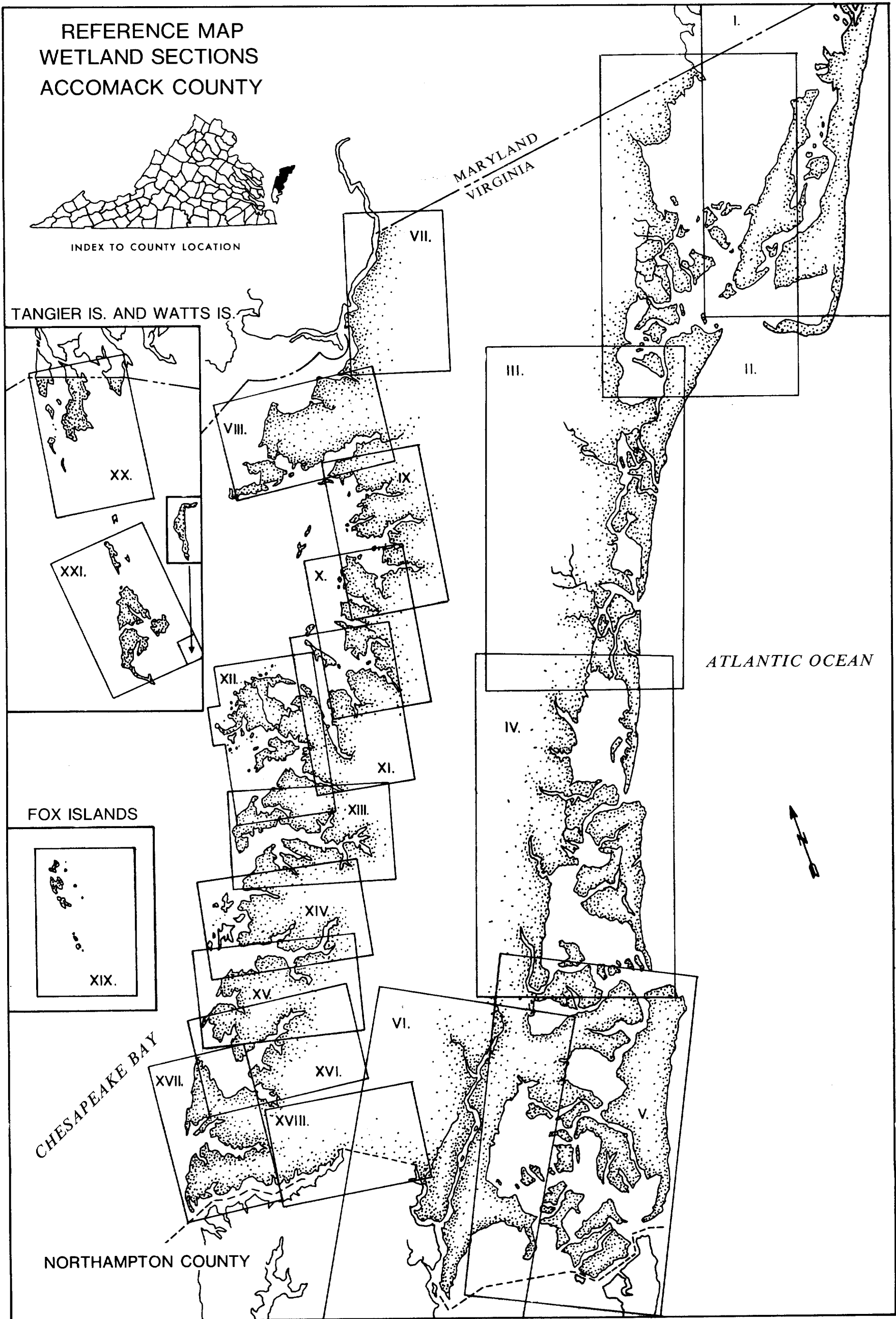
a large marsh where the length and depth or width are roughly comparable; most extensive marshes are drained by many tidal channels and creeks which have little freshwater input.



point or spit marsh

a marsh which extends from the uplands in the form of a point or spit; its development is usually influenced by tidal currents that form a sand berm behind which the marsh forms.





## Section I. Chincoteague and Assateague Islands

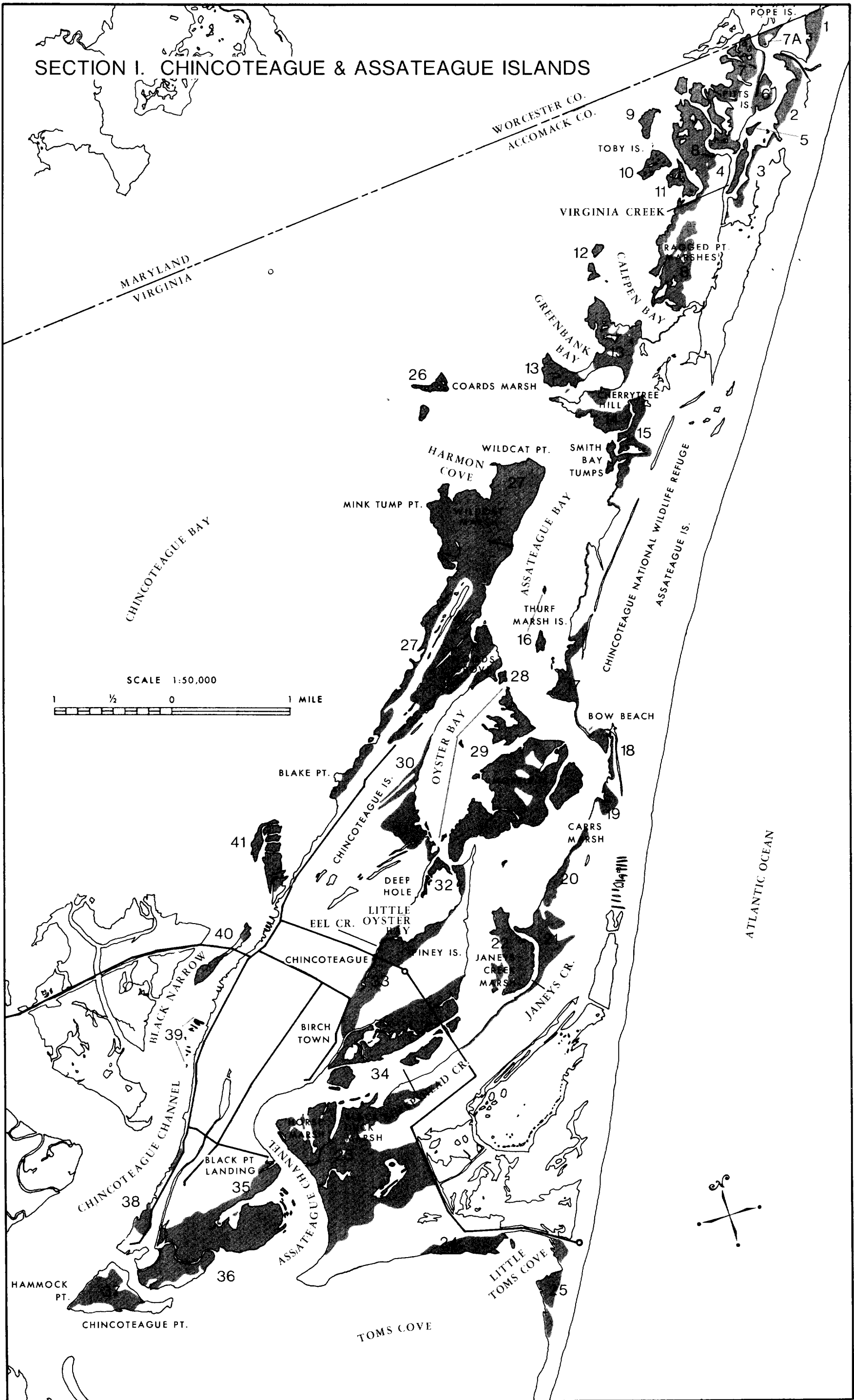
A number of marshes on Chincoteague Island have been altered by development and dredging activities. Chincoteague Point Island, located just off the southern tip of Chincoteague Island has suffered from dredge spoil and erosion over the years. Most of the older spoil piles are now over-grown with saltbushes. The island is also severely eroding, primarily due to storms and from heavy boat traffic. Recent aerial photography indicates that the southeastern end of the island has undergone extensive erosion. An area on Oyster Bay (#31), which was a series of narrow, embayed marshes in low areas between ancient beach ridges has been transformed into a venetian type development with dead end canals. Black Point Marsh (#36) at the lower tip of Chincoteague Island has also been filled in several places near the uplands. The small, narrow marsh islands (#40) at the draw bridge has also been partially covered by spoil. A fringing marsh (#38) along Chincoteague Channel at the lower end of the island, has also been nearly destroyed by dredging operations. In general, the marshes of the Chincoteague Bay area have been damaged by man more than any other area of Accomack County.

The largest marsh in this section is Wildcat Marsh (#27) which forms the northern part of Chincoteague Island. This marsh is largely dominated by short-form Saltmarsh Cordgrass. Interspersed in the marsh are ancient beach ridges, which are usually vegetated by Loblolly Pine, Cedar, Wax Myrtle and other upland species.

Assateague Island is the longest and northern-most barrier island in the chain along the Delmarva Peninsula. It extends from Ocean City Inlet in Maryland to Chincoteague Inlet, a distance of approximately 36 miles. The marsh development behind this island is not as extensive as found farther south in this chain. The most extensive marsh on the Virginia portion of the island is at the lower end near Tom's Cove, a saltmeadow marsh (Type II) (#23) that frequently grazed by "Chincoteague ponies." Portions of this marsh have been diked in the past by the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in order to attract waterfowl. Marshes to the north, such as Janey's Creek Marsh, Carrs Marsh, Bow Beach Marsh also show signs of grazing.

The marshes of the Ragged Point - Cherry Tree Hill (#12-15) area are indicative of wetland development on old inlet deltas.

# SECTION I. CHINCOTEAGUE & ASSATEAGUE ISLANDS



SECTION I CHINCOTEAGUE & ASSATEAGUE ISLANDS

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
1	Assateague Island	24	70	16.8	-		15	3.6	15	3.6					Broad fringe marsh; sms & sb bordering maritime forest	I
2	Assateague Island	33	60	19.8	-		20	6.6	10	3.3	10	3.3			Fringe marsh; sms & sb in higher transition zone	I
3	Assateague Island	18	70	12.6	-		20	3.6	10	1.8					Fringe marsh dominated by sc in the intertidal zone	I
4	Virginia Creek	17	85	14.45	-	.68	10	1.7	1	.17					Marsh island dominated by sc, sw near upper limits of tide	I
5	Pitts Island	3	100	3	-										Small marsh island (tump) cabin on pilings, intertidal	I
6	Pitts Island	17	98	16.66	-		2	.34							Point marsh tidal pond in center	I
7	Pitts Island	119	85	101	-		5	6			10	12	-		Scattered needlerush colonies	I
7a	Pope Island	7	40	2.80	-		15	1.05	15	1.05	30	2.10	-		Point marsh scattered Needle-rush colonies	XII
8	Ragged Point Marshes	156	60	93.6	-		25	39	15	23.4			-		Extensive marsh meadows in higher areas of marsh	I
9	Toby Islands	12.5	96	12	2	.24	1	.13	1	.13					Low intertidal islands cabins on pilings	I
10	Toby Islands	20	97	19.4	2	.4			1	.20					Low intertidal islands cabins on pilings	I
11	Toby Islands	23	92	21.2	2	.45	6	1.35							Low intertidal islands cabins on pilings	I
12	Calfpen Bay	5.5	100	5.5	-										Low intertidal islands dominated by sc	I
13	Ragged Point Marshes	130	75	97.5	2	2.6	18	23.4	5	6.5					These marshes may have developed on deltas formed by an ancient inlet	I

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bn = Black Needlerush  
ct = Cattail  
ds = Salt Grass

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mm = Marsh Mallow  
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sb = Saltbushes  
sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass  
sg = Switch Grass

sl = Sea Lavender  
sms = Saltmedow Hay-Salt Grass  
so = Sea Oxeye  
sw = Saltwort  
wh = Water Hemp

SECTION I CHINCOTEAGUE & ASSATEAGUE ISLANDS

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
14	Cherry Hill Peach Creek	130	80	104			15	19.5	5	6.5					See observations #13 above	I
15	Smith Bay Tumps	44	65	28.6	5	2.2	25	11.0	5	2.2					See observations #13 above	I
16	Thurf Marsh Islands	7	100	7											Intertidal low marsh island	I
17	Assateague Bay	53	70	37.1	8	4.24	10	5.3	10	5.3			sl 1 .53 sg 1 .53	Sw associated with short form sc	I	
18	Bow Beach	22	50	11	5	1.1	15	3.3	15	3.3			ss 5 1.1 sedges 2.2 10	Grazed - influenced by fresh water	I	
19	Bow Beach	13	30	3.9			30	3.9	40	5.2				High marsh disturbed by grazing	XII	
20	Carrs Marsh	25	70	17.5	5	1.25	15	3.75	8	2			sl 2 .5	Narrow fringe marsh intermittent berm	I	
21	Janeys Creek	70	54	38	2	1.6	33	22.8	11	7.6				Fringe & embayed marsh some grazing ponies	I	
22	Janeys Creek Island	97	100	97										Low marsh island	I	
23	Blackduck-Horse Marsh	495	20	99	5	24.75	70	346.5	5	24.75				Extensive, embayed marsh heavy grazing	II	
24	Little Toms Cove	52	70	36.4			25	13	5	2.6				Broad fringing marsh, saltbush hummocks	I	
25	Little Toms Cove	42	70	29.4			15	6.3	15	6.3				Point marsh, saltbush hummocks	I	
26	Coards Marsh	23	97	22.3					2	.45			bg 1 .25	Intertidal low marsh island	I	
27	Wildcat Marsh	654	85	555.9	5	32.7	5	32.7	5	32.7				Extensive peninsular and embayed marsh system, ancient beach ridges	I	

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SECTION I CHINCOTEAGUE & ASSATEAGUE ISLANDS

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
28	Woods Grove	23	70	16.1	10	2.3	10	2.3	10	2.3			sl,mm -		Point marsh and island	I
29	Morris Islands	347	93	321.78	1	3.64	2	7.28	4	14.30					These marsh islands may have formed from ancient inlet bars or flats	I
30	Oyster Bay	28	95	26.6			5	1.4							Narrow marsh, between old beach ridges	I
31	Oyster Bay				SEE	TEXT									Development with dead end canals, former marsh	
32	Little Oyster Bay	27	90	24.3	10	2.7									Low marsh fringe and islands	I
33	Eel Creek	66	90	59.4	3	1.98	2	1.32	5	3.3					Broad creek marsh, route 2113 crossing, evidence of fill	I
34	Sheepshead Creek	219	97	212.43	1	2.19	1	2.19	1	2.19					Intertidal marsh interrupted by causeway	I
35	Black Point Landing	18	30	5.4			20	3.6	50	9					Embayed marsh, large saltbush community	IV
36	Lower Chincoteague Island	350	81	283.9	8	30.06	5	16.7	5	16.0			sl 1	3.34	High parts of marsh have been filled (spoil)	I
37	Chincoteague Point	67	80	53.6	3	2.0	7	4.7	8	5.4			so 2	1.3	Marsh island, disturbed spoil piles, severe erosion	I
38	Chincoteague Channel	12	80	9.6	3	.36	10	1.2	7	.84					Fringe marsh, much of the original marsh covered by spoil	I
39	Chincoteague Channel	4	100	4											Intertidal low marsh islands	I
40	Black Narrow	24	95	22.8			3	.72	2	.48					Low marsh islands, spoil & buildings on N.E. island	I
41	Chincoteague	65	95	61.75	3	1.95	2	1.3							Low marsh island, spoil pile on lower end	I

TOTAL SECTION I

3562	2625.06	119.39	597.54	192.86	17.4	9.75
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bc = Big Cordgrass	mm = Marsh Mallow	sms = Saltmedow Hay-Salt Grass				
bg = Black Grass	rg = Reed Grass	so = Sea Oxeye				
bn = Black Needlerush	sb = Saltbushes	sw = Saltwort				
ct = Cattail	sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass	wh = Water Hemp				
ds = Salt Grass	sg = Switch Grass					

## Section II. Chincoteague Bay to Wallops Island

This section includes those marshes along the western shoreline of Chincoteague Bay, beginning at the Virginia-Maryland border to the massive salt marshes at the lower end of the Bay and the northern part of Wallops Island.

Massive damage to wetlands have taken place from Swans Gut Creek to the vicinity of Powell Creek (#48), an area now known as Captains Cove. Dredged channels have been cut through the marsh and the spoil deposited on the marsh surface. Damage has also occurred in the wetlands of the Greenbackville-Franklin City area (#42-46), again by dredge and fill operations. Dredged channels are found in various locations throughout the marsh system at the lower end of this section. Uncontained spoil areas, commonly vegetated by short-form Saltmarsh Cordgrass in association with Saltwort are found throughout, usually adjacent to maintained channels.

A dike constructed on the marshes of Lower Swans Gut Creek has been opened in a number of places along its length several years ago, allowing tidal communication into the marsh behind. This marsh was formerly isolated by tides, but now it appears to be healthy.

The large marsh system in the southern part of this section is typical of the extensive saltmarshes that extend from this area to Smith Island, at the southern tip of Northampton County. The coastal system landward of the barrier islands is typically characterized by large and small marsh islands, peninsulas and broad fringe marshes that resemble prairies because of the monotypic stands of Saltmarsh Cordgrass. These marshes are flushed and drained through a vast dendritic network of tidal guts, creeks and channels. The many shallow bays, coves and tidal flats, in concert with the wetlands, provide a very productive ecological system that is important to both the marine and estuarine environments. Unlike the wetlands immediately to the north in Maryland and farther north in New Jersey where there has been extensive mosquito ditching and coastal development, these marshes and associated barrier islands are largely undisturbed by man except for Wallops Island. Tall-form Saltmarsh Cordgrass dominates the tidal guts and creeks, but by far the most common vegetation is short-form of Saltmarsh Cordgrass.

A distinct upland/marsh transition zone or ecotone is characteristic of the marshes along the western shore of Chincoteague Bay. The ecotone consists of saltbushes (Marsh Elder and Groundsel Tree) and usually an associated ground cover of Saltmeadow Hay and occasionally Black Grass. Where there is freshwater seepage along the upland/marsh border, Cattails are commonly found.

The reader will note that several marshes of the northern part of Wallops overlap with Section III. Wallops Island to Metomkin Island and Bundick Creek.

SECTION II CHINCOTEAGUE BAY TO WALLOPS ISLAND

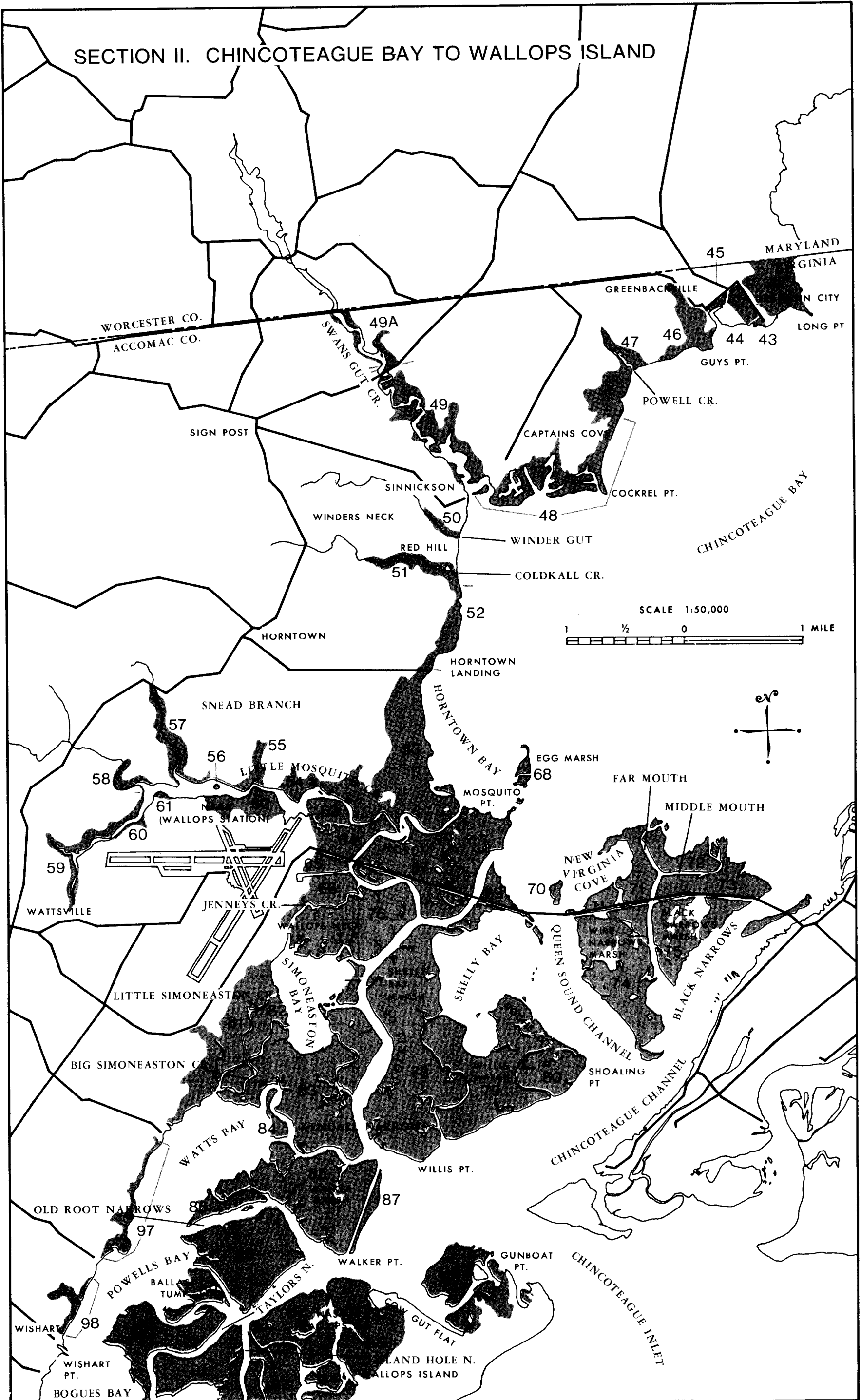
#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%		%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
42	Franklin City - Long Point	119	75	89.25			18	21.42	5	5.95			sl,1 rg,1	1.19 1.19	Extensive marsh, partially disturbed, ditching, solid waste	I
43	Franklin City	2					50	1	40	.8			rg,10	.2	Partially disturbed, fill	II
44	Franklin City	12	60	7.20			35	4.2	2	.24			rg,3	.36	Partially disturbed, fill	I
45	Greenbackville Harbor	3	3	.09			10	.3	1	.03			rg,86	2.58	Disturbed, spoil from dredged channel	VIII
46	Guys Point Gut	72	20	14.4			65	46.8	10	7.2			rg,5	3.6	Berm along Guys Point, high creek marsh	II
47	Powell Creek	94	85	79.9			5	4.7	8	7.52			mh,1 mm,1	.94 .94	Berm along bay creek marsh and broad fringe	I
48	Captains Cove				See	Text									Captains Cove Development dredged channel - spoil	
49	Lower Swans Gut Creek	169	80	135.2	1	1.69	15	25.35	3	5.07			rg,1	1.69	To route #679, discontinuous dike, diked spoil on island at mouth	I
49A	Upper Swans Gut Creek	45					30	13.5	20	9			s,40 mm hb, 10 mm hb, 4.5	18 10 4.5	Diverse mixed brackishwater marsh	XII
50	Winders Gut	18	5	.9	-		50	9	15	2.7	2	.36	bg,1 rg,3 ct,24	.18 .54 4.32	Small creek marsh berm, limited tidal flow	II
51	Coldkall Creek	55	50	27.54			5	2.75	35	19.25			ct,10	5.5	Creek marsh, berm	I
52	Above Horntown Landing	46	10	4.6	-		40	18.4	20	9.2			ct,10 mh,10 rg,10	4.6 4.6 4.6	Diverse vegetation Broad fringe marsh	XII
53	Horntown Bay Mosquito Creek	389	70	272.3	-		20	77.8	2	7.78			s,6 ct,2	23.34 7.78	Berm along marsh shoreline Extensive marsh	I
54	Little Mosquito Creek	26	97	25.22	2	.52			1	.26					Low Point Marsh	I

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sl = Sea Lavender  
sms = Saltmedow Hay-Salt Grass  
so = Sea Oxeye  
sw = Saltwort  
wh = Water Hemp  
s = Sedges, Scirpus spp.

SECTION II. CHINCOTEAGUE BAY TO WALLOPS ISLAND



SECTION II CHINCOTEAGUE BAY TO WALLOPS ISLAND

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%		%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
55	Little Mosquito Creek	23	85	19.55			5	1.15	5	1.15			ct,5	1.15	Fringe and small creek marsh	I
56	Little Mosquito Creek-island	1	98	.98			2	.02							Low, intertidal marsh island	I
57	Snead Branch	50	70	35					30	15					Sb near upper end creek marsh	I
58	Little Mosquito Creek	20.6	10	2.06			20	4.12	60	12.36			ct,10	2.06	Small creek marsh, dominated sb, sms cover	IV
59	Wattsville Branch	41	5	2.05			20	8.2	70	28.7			ct,5	2.05	Fringe and creek marsh, dominated by sb	IV
60	Little Mosquito Creek	8	10	.8			30	2.4	50	4			10	.8	Fringe and pocket marsh, sms cover, sb overstory	IV
61	Little Mosquito Creek	4	70	2.8			10	.40	20	.80					Low, mostly intertidal point marsh	I
62	Little Mosquito Creek	69	70	48.3	1	.69	2	1.38	2	1.38			ct,25	17.25	Extensive marsh, broad fringe of cattails along upland borders	I
63	Little Mosquito Creek	52	94	48.88	4	2.08	2	1.04	-						Low, intertidal marsh island	I
64	Mosquito Creek	80	90	72	4	3.20	5	4	1	.8					Extensive marsh, mainly short form sc	I
65	Wallops Neck	21	98	20.58	-		1	.21	1	.21			sl,-		Dredged channels, sb on spoil along channel	I
66	Jenneys Creek	90	97	87.3	-		2	1.8	1	.9			sl,-		Partially filled, meadow and saltbush upland border	I
67	Lower Mosquito Creek	427	92	392.84	2	8.54	4	17.08	2	8.54			sl,-		Dredge channel, sms and sb growing on old spoil	I
68	Egg Marsh	10	95	9.5	1	.1			4	.4					Low marsh island, moderate erosion	I

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SECTION II CHINCOTEAGUE BAY TO WALLOPS ISLAND

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%		%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
69	Queen Sound Channel	44	94	41.36	2	.88	2	.88	1	.44			s1,1	.44	Marsh island, moderate erosion due to boat wakes	I
70	Queen Sound Channel	10	96	9.6	3	.3			1	.1					Marsh island, dominated by short form sc, colonies of sw	I
71	Far Mouth	132	90	118.8	3	3.96	5	6.6	1	1.32			s1,1	1.32	Marsh island, mainly short form sc, higher areas of sms & sb	I
72	Middle Mouth	69	95	65.55	5	3.45									Marsh island, colonies of sw may indicate uncontained spoil from dredging	I
73	Black Narrows	143	93	132.99	5	7.15	1	1.43	1	1.43					(as above, #72)	I
74	Wire Narrows Marsh	333	93	309.69	2	6.66	5	16.65							(as above, #72)	I
75	Black Narrows Marsh	163	97	158.11	3	4.89									(as above, #72)	I
76	Wallops Neck	299	97	290.03	3	8.97									Low marsh island, dominated by short form sc	I
77	Simoneston Bay	26	97	25.22	3	.78									(as above, #76)	I
78	Shelly Bay Marsh	648	95	615.6	2	12.96			3	19.44					(as above, #76)	I
79	Willis Marsh	507	94	476.58	2	10.14			4	20.28					(as above, #76)	I
80	Shoaling Point	127	95	120.65	3	3.81	1	1.27					s1,1	1.27	(as above, #76)	I
81	Little Simoneaston Creek	167	85	141.95	4	6.68	2	3.34	4	6.68	1	1.67	s1,1 rg,3	1.67 5.01	Broad upland border of high marsh vegetation	I
82	Big Simoneaston Creek	89	95	84.55	5	4.45	-						s1,-		Scattered colonies of sms, dominated by short form sc	I

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SECTION II CHINCOTEAGUE BAY TO WALLOPS ISLAND

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%		%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
83	Cockel Creek	493	95	468.35	4	19.72							s1,1	4.93	Low marsh island, dominated by short form sc	I
84	Kendall Narrows	21	95	19.95	4	.84							s1,1	.21	(as above)	I
85	Walker Marsh	487	93	452.91	2	9.74	-		3	14.61			s1,2	9.74	Low marsh island, dredged channel on eastern side, sb growing on old spoil	I
86	Old Root Narrows	42	93	39.06	5	2.1							s1,2	.84	low marsh island	I
87	Walker Marsh	16	85	13.6	3	.48	2	.32	10	1.6			s1,-		Long narrow island as a result of dredged channel, sb growing on old spoil	I
88	Old Root Narrows	307	97	297.79	3	9.21									Low marsh island, dominated by short form sc	I
89	Ballast Tump	61	97	59.17	3	1.83									(as above)	I
90	Taylor's Narrows	160	97	155.2	3	4.8									(as above, #88)	I
91	Bogues Bay	148	97	143.56	3	4.44									(as above, #88)	I
92	Island Hole Narrows	166	95	157.7	3	4.98							s1,2	3.32	Dominated by short form sc, sw & s1 growing on old un-contained spoil	I
93	Sloop Gut	648	90	583.2	3	19.44	4	25.92	2	12.96			s1,1	6.48	(as above)	I
94	Sloop Gut	28	95	26.6	4	1.12							s1,1	.28	(as above, #92)	I
95	Cow Gut	183	90	164.7	2	3.66	4	7.32	3	5.49			s1,1	1.83	Mainly short form sc; sms, sw s1 growing on uncontained spoil	I
96	Gunboat Point	191	92	175.72	3	5.73	2	3.82	3	5.73					Marsh grown larger by invading sand flats over the years	I

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SECTION II CHINCOTEAGUE BAY TO WALLOPS ISLAND

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%		%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
97	Powells Bay	38	60	22.8	-		15	5.7	15	5.7			sl,10	3.8	Point and fringe marsh, broad transition zone	I
98	Wishart	23.4	70	16.38	10	2.34	10	2.34	10	2.34			-		Creek and fringe marsh, dam above tidal pond	I
	TOTAL SECTION II	7716		6786.57		182.33		342.61		247.36		2.03		155.10		

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### Section III. Wallops Island to Metomkin Island and Bundick Creek

The barrier islands of this section are closer to the mainland than are Assateague and Chincoteague to the north. Except for several shallow bays, the salt marshes are rather compactly situated between the leeward side of the islands and uplands.

The islands in this area are retreating in a westerly direction, reflecting a general, gradual rise in sea level. Dunes and beaches are migrating over the marshes at a rapid rate. This is evidenced by the marsh peat exposed at low tide in the surf zone. This dynamic process is more advanced toward the lower part of this section, particularly on the Metomkin Islands. In many areas on Assawoman and Upper Metomkin Island sand overwash onto the marsh is prevalent. Recent aerial photography (October 1977) indicate many new overwash areas that were formed after a series of northeast storms.

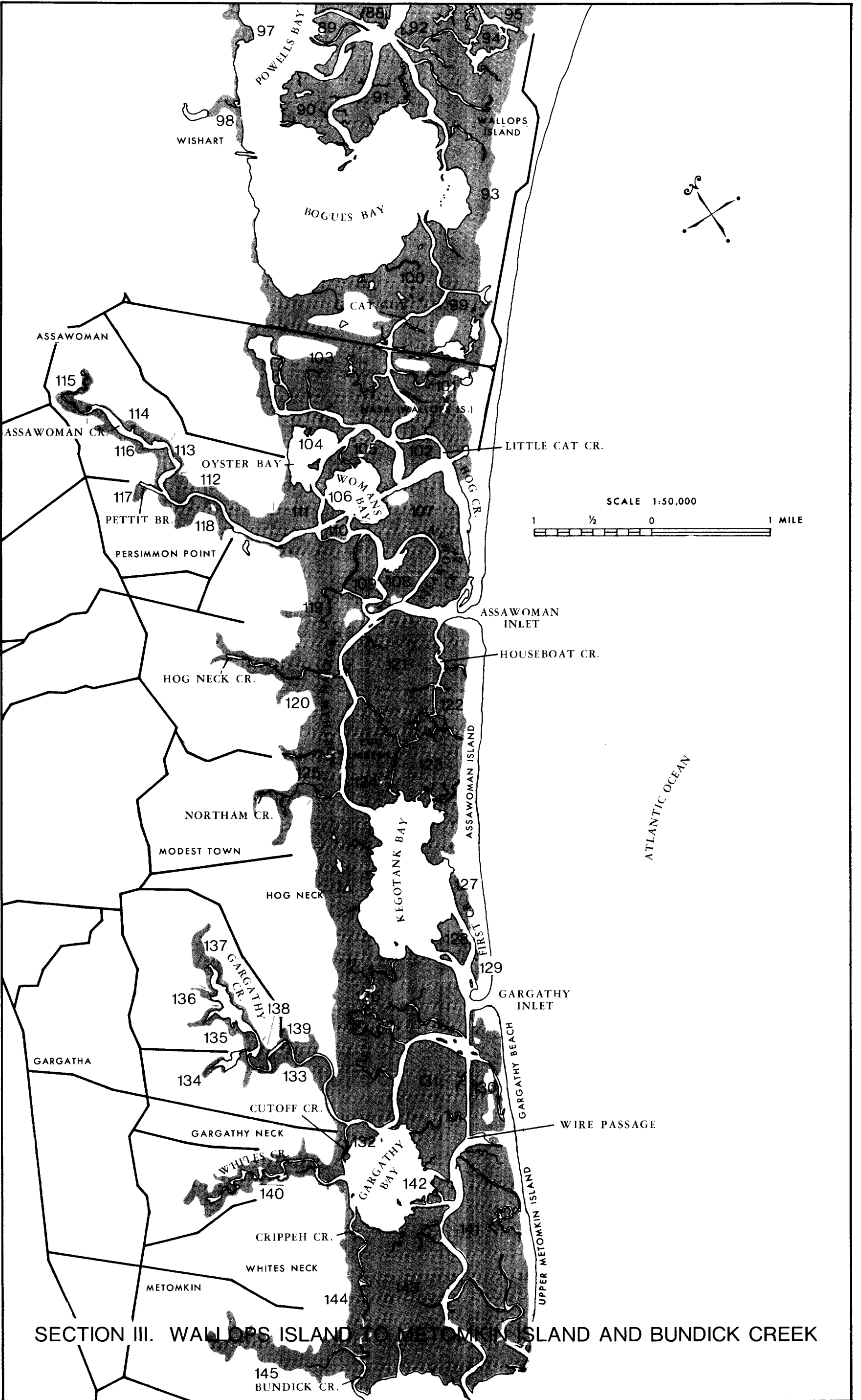
Most of the marshes in this section are dominated by short-form Saltmarsh Cordgrass. Those marshes located immediately behind the dunes of the islands typically grade into very narrow Saltmeadow Hay communities as the elevation increases and where the substrate is predominately sand. The meadow community often extends beyond the marsh proper and vegetates the leeward side of the after-dunes as a tufted growth form.

Overwash and spoil disposal have adversely effected the marshes on Upper Metomkin Island, immediately south of Gargathy Inlet. A broad overwash area between marsh #130 and marsh #141 may have been an inlet at one time.

The marshes behind Wallops Island and on both sides of the causeway have been impacted by spoil disposal. Much of the veneer is vegetated by Saltmeadow Hay, Salt Grass, Saltbushes, Sea Lavender and Sea Oxeye. However, large areas remain unvegetated.

Two marshes (#111-112) at the mouth of Assawoman Creek are actively grazed by cattle.

Several large marsh creek systems, namely Assawoman Creek, Gargathy Creek, Whites Creek and Bundick Creek extend into the uplands. Freshwater runoff, at the upper ends of these creeks, dilutes the saltwater, allowing brackish species such as Big Cordgrass and Narrow-leaved Cattails to flourish.



SECTION III. WALLOPS ISLAND TO METOMKIN ISLAND AND BUNDICK CREEK

SECTION III WALLOPS ISLAND TO METOMKIN ISLAND AND BUNDICK CREEK

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
99	Cat Creek	157	75	117.75	5	7.85	10	15.7	5	7.85			sl-2.5 so-2.5	3.92 3.92	Large areas of uncontained spoil, some of these areas are vegetated by sw, sws, sb	I
100	Bogues Bay Cat Creek	329	80	263.20	5	16.45	5	16.45	5	16.45			sl-2.5 ds-2.5	8.22 8.22	Large areas of diked and uncontained spoil	I
101	Cat Creek - Little Cat Creek	210	80	168.00	5	10.50	5	10.50	5	10.50			sl-1 ds-4	2.10 8.40	(as above)	I
102	Cat Creek - Hog Creek	46	97	44.62	3	1.38									Intertidal low marsh island	I
103	Cat Creek - Hog Creek	397.16	75	297.87	10	39.72	5	19.86	5	19.86			sl-2.5 ds-2.5	9.92 9.92	Low areas of diked and uncontained spoil, the latter vegetated with sw, sws, sb	I
104	Oyster Bay	47	95	44.65	5	2.35									Narrow neck marsh, mainly short form sc	I
105	Oyster Bay - Womans Bay	98	95	93.1	4	3.92	-		1	.98					Low marsh islands, uncontained spoil	I
106	Arbuckle Creek	13	85	11.05	15	1.95	-								sw dominating on old spoil veneer.	I
107	Assawoman Inlet	308	80	246.40	5	15.40	5	15.40	10	30.80					Tall form sc along guts only short form sc throughout. Sw, sms, sb, on old spoil	I
108	Assawoman Creek	85	90	76.50	8	6.80			2	1.70					Sw growing on uncontained spoil. Low marsh island	I
109	Assawoman Creek	61	95	57.95	5	3.05									Low marsh island	I
110	Assawoman Creek	20	50	10.00	20	4.00	15	3.00	15	3.00					Large areas of uncontained spoil vegetated with sw, sms, sb	I
111	Assawoman Creek	94	85	79.90	5	4.70	5	4.70	5	4.70					Large part of marsh is grazed by cattle	I
112	Assawoman Creek	44	95	41.80	1	.44	2	.88	2	.88	-		ct,at-		Grazed by cattle	I

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SECTION III WALLOPS ISLAND TO METOMKIN ISLAND AND BUNDICK CREEK

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%		%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
113	Assawoman Creek	5	65	3.25	5	.25	15	.75	10	.50			ct, 5	.25	Fringe marsh, band of sms & sb along upland borders. Cattail in seepage areas along uplands	I
114	Assawoman Creek	13	40	5.20			30	3.90	10	1.30	20	2.60			Diverse vegetation an indication of reduced salinity and higher elevation.	XII
115	Upper Assawoman Creek	34	-				-		50	17.00			bc-40 ct-10	13.6 3.4	High marsh, dominated by saltbushes	IV
116	Assawoman Creek	37	-				40	14.80	60	22.2					Extensive fringe, high marsh	IV
117	Pettit Branch	6	95	5.70	1	.06	2	.12	2	.12					Pocket marsh with typical sb border.	I
118	Assawoman Creek	41	95	38.95	1	.41	1	.41	3	1.23					Broad fringe marsh with mainly tall form sc	I
119	Assawoman - Hog Neck Creek	307	90	276.3	4	12.28	3	9.21	-				ct, 3	9.21	Mainly short form sc with sms & sw at slightly higher elevations, ct in seepage areas	I
120	Hog Neck Creek - Northam Narrows	172	90	154.8	3	5.16	3	5.16	2	3.44			ct, 2	3.44	(as above)	I
121	Houseboat Creek	382.5	94	359.55	6	22.95									Dominated by short forms sc, tall form along guts	I
122	Assawoman Island	145	92	133.40	6	8.70	1	1.45	1	1.45					Dominated by short form sc, sms, sb near dune border.	I
123	Assawoman Island	273.2	95	259.54	5	13.66	-		-						The lower end of this marsh has expanded onto a previous tidal flat in the last few yrs	I
124	Egg Marsh	200	95	190	3	6.00	2	4.00							Mainly short form sc with sc associated	I
125	Northam Creek	105	85	89.25	3	3.15	5	5.25	5	5.25			ct, 2	2.1	Trace bc, at, sl diversity increases as salinity decreases toward upper end of creek	I
126	Kegotank Bay	1021	95	969.95	1	10.21	1	10.21	2	20.42			ct, 1	10.21	Extensive marsh, dominated by short form sc	I

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SECTION III WALLOPS ISLAND TO METOMKIN ISLAND AND BUNDICK CREEK

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
127	Assawoman Island	23.8	85	20.23	5	1.19	10	2.38	-						Evidence of periodic overwash, covering the marsh	I
128	First Creek	48.6	95	46.17	5	2.43									Low marsh island	I
129	Assawoman Island	11	90	9.9	5	.55	5	.55							Severe overwash, sms at slightly higher elevations	I
130	Metomkin Island	132.3	85	112.46	10	13.25	5	6.62							Uncontained spoil vegetated with sms, sw	I
131	Wire Passage	324	95	307.80	5	16.20									Low marsh island dominated by short form sc	I
132	Cutoff Creek	39	97	37.83	3	1.17									Low marsh island	I
133	Gargathy Creek	59	90	53.10	3	1.77	4	2.36	3	1.77	-		ct,rg-	Mainly sc with sms & sb upland border	I	
134	Gargathy Creek	7	86	6.02			2	.14	8	.56	2	.14	ct, 2	.14	Sms & sb along the upland border, ct where there is freshwater drainage	I
135	Gargathy Creek	30	70	21			20	6	7	2.10	3	.90	bg,-		Pocket and fringe marsh, broad upland border with sms, sb & bn	I
136	Gargathy Creek	5.7	90	5.13			5	.29	3	.17			ct, 2	.11	Pocket marsh trace bg	I
137	Upper Gargathy Creek	42	70	29.40			10	4.20	5	2.10	12	5.04	ct,3	1.26	Pocket and fringe marsh colonies of bn, ct, sms & sb along upland border	I
138	Gargathy Creek	13	90	11.70	3	.39	4	.52	3	.39					Point marsh, dominated by sc, typical sms & sb ecotone along upland border	I
139	Gargathy Creek	22	90	19.80	3	.66	4	.88	3	.66					Point marsh, dominated by sc, narrow upland border	I
140	White Creek	141.7	95	134.61			2.5	3.54	2.5	3.54					Intertidal creek marsh, dominated by tall form sc	I

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SECTION III WALLOPS ISLAND TO METOMKIN ISLAND AND BUNDICK CREEK

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
141	Metomkin Island	686.8	95	652.46	5	34.34	-								Dune line has been breached in some places, sand overwashing marsh	I
142	Gargathy Bay	28	100	28											Low intertidal marsh islands	I
143	Wire Passage	700.9	95	665.86	5	35.05									Extensive marsh, dominated by short form sc	I
144	Crippen Creek	94.6	85	80.41	2	1.89	5	4.73	4	3.78			ct, 4	3.78	Long narrow transition zone of sms, sb & ct	I
145	Bundick Creek	179	75	134.25	5	8.95	5	8.95	10	17.9			ct, 5	8.95	Dredged channels through marsh, spoil along side. Trace rg, bg, sl, mh, so	I
	TOTAL SECTION III	7239.26		6414.81		319.18		182.91		202.60			8.68	111.07		

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 bc = Big Cordgrass              mm = Marsh Mallow      sms = Saltmedow Hay-Salt Grass  
 bg = Black Grass                rg = Reed Grass          so = Sea Oxeve  
 bn = Black Needlerush        sb = Saltbushes          sw = Saltwort  
 ct = Cattail                      sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass   wh = Water Hemp  
 ds = Salt Grass                sg = Switch Grass

#### Section IV. Metomkin Bay to Wachapreague

The largest salt marsh system in this section is bounded by Metomkin Bay to the north, Burtons Bay to the south, Metomkin Inlet and Cedar Island to the east and Curtis and Joynes Necks to the east. This system is very similar in vegetative composition as the marshes in Section III.

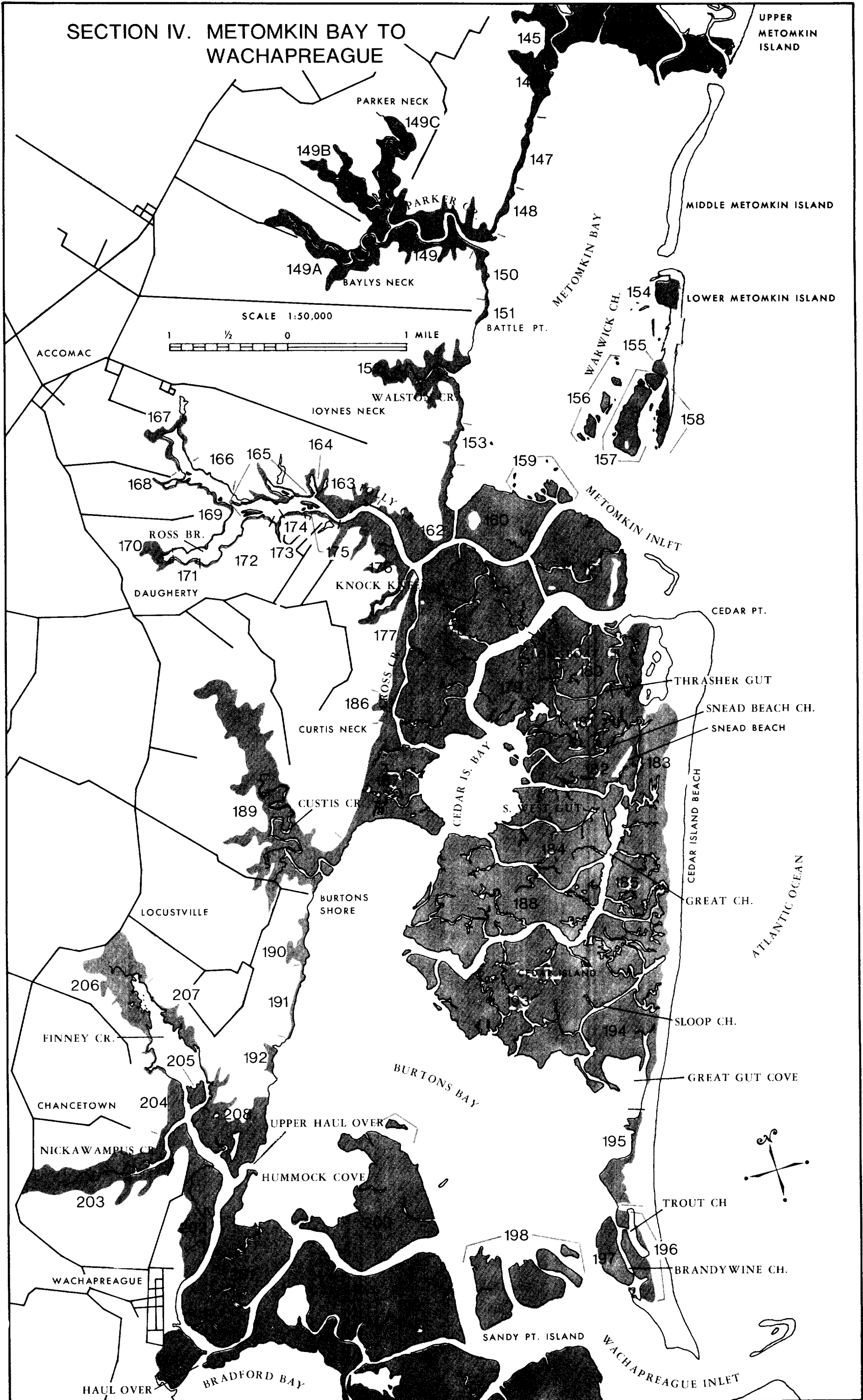
Metomkin Island complex is highly dynamic physiographically. Originally Metomkin Island was one unit. However, two inlets have breached through the beach and dune in recent years and Metomkin Island is now divided into three segments, the Upper, Middle and Lower Metomkin Islands.

Upper Metomkin has an almost continuous chain of breached overwash sites. Middle Metomkin Island is actually a low beach with associated sandy tidal flats behind it. Lower Metomkin Island has been reduced in length and breadth because of inlet erosion and beach retreat. The small, fragmented leeward marshes are endangered by sand overwash. Recent aerial photography (October 1977), reveals that marsh #158 has dwindled in size because of overwash after the field work was completed in August, 1975. The accompanying map shows these recent changes. Broad, shallow, delta flats have formed near the small inlets. Eventually, these flats will be invaded by Saltmarsh Cordgrass and become salt marshes.

The lower spit of Cedar Island has been the site of major overwashes. An ephemeral inlet was located between Great Cove and marsh #195. The inlet was closed in 1975. However, during a series of northeast storms in October 1977, this area was breached again but has subsequently closed. A large pan, or sand flat, was formed on marsh #195 as a result of overwash during a storm in 1962. Presently, this pan is nearly devoid of vegetation except for seasonal algal mats.

There are a number of wetlands that have been altered by dredge and fill operations. These are located in Parker Creek, Walston Creek, the mouth of Folly Creek (#162) and on the western shoreline of Burtons Bay (#191, 192, 208). (See tables for details). A number of other marshes have been impacted by uncontained spoil disposal.

# SECTION IV. METOMKIN BAY TO WACHAPREAGUE



SECTION IV METOMKIN BAY TO WACHAPREAGUE

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%		%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
146	Metomkin Bay	34.5	70	24.15	10	3.45	5	1.73	15	5.18					Fringe and small creek pocket marsh, sms & sb along upland margin.	I
147	Parker Neck	15	70	10.50	7	1.05	5	.75	14	2.10			ct,4	.60	Fringing marsh, sms & sb along upland margin	I
148	Parker Creek (Mouth)	8.3	50	4.15	5	.42	10	.83	35	2.91			so sl	- -	Fringe marsh, large spoil area behind fringe	I
149	Parker Creek	170	90	153	5	8.50	2.5	4.25	2.5	4.25					Creek marsh, dredged channel	I
149A	Parker Creek	72	70	50.40	1	.72	3	2.16	10	7.2			mh,15 ct,1	10.80 .72	Creek marsh, trace rg, sa	I
149B	Parker Creek	73.5	85	62.48	1	.74	5	3.68	8	5.88			ct,1	.74	Creek marsh, cattle grazing upper fringes	I
149C	Parker Creek	66	80	52.80	1	.66	4	2.64	12	7.92	1	.66	ct,2	1.32	Creek marsh, trace: bg, atriplex, arrowhead	I
150	Parker Creek (Mouth)	13	90	11.7	5	.65	2.5	.33	2.5	.33					Point and fringe marsh	I
151	Battle Point	3	60	1.80	10	.30	15	.45	15	.45					Point marsh, sb & sms along uplands	I
152	Walston Creek	70	90	63.00	1	.70	2	1.40	5	3.50			ct,1 rg,1	.70 .70	Creek marsh, dredged channel and spoil	I
153	Joynes Neck	7	60	4.20	5	.35	15	1.05	10	.70			rg,10	.70	Partially filled, spoil	I
154	Lower Metomkin Island	24	90	21.60	5	1.20	5	1.20							Marsh extending over flats, sms near overwash	I
155	Lower Metomkin Island	6	90	5.40	5	.30	5	.30							Marsh threatened by overwash, sms near lower dunes	I
156	Warwick Channel	17	100	17											Intertidal marsh island (tumps)	I

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SECTION IV METOMKIN BAY TO WACHAPREAGUE

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
157	Running Channel	72	97	69.84					3	2.16					Marsh islands, mainly, intertidal, old spoil mound	I
158	Lower Metomkin Island	21	100	21											Severe overwash	I
159	Lower Metomkin Bay	18	100	18											Intertidal marsh islands (tumps)	I
160	Folly Creek	205	92	188.6	8	16.40	-						rg,-		Marsh island, spoil mound vegetated with rg, sw, sms	I
161	Flounder Point	279	92	256.68	7	19.53	-		1	2.79					Marsh island formed by channel cut, old spoil mounds.	I
162	Folly Creek	80	97	77.60	3	2.40									Large diked spoil area, nearly devoid of vegetation	I
163	Folly Creek	40	95	38	3	1.20	2	.80	-						Point and cove marsh, mainly intertidal marsh	I
164	Folly Creek	15.8	95	15.01			2.5	.40	2.5	.40					Cove marsh, narrow upland border	I
165	Folly Creek	29	90	26.1			5	1.45	5	1.45					Cove and fringe marsh, marsh tumps	I
166	Folly Creek	.1	90	.90			5	.05	5	.05					Narrow fringe marsh, mainly intertidal	I
167	Upper Part Folly Creek	21	80	16.80			6.5	1.37	6.5	1.37	5	1.05	rg, 2	.42	Pocket marshes, dams behind marshes. Reed grass near dam construction	I
168	Folly Creek	3	90	2.70			5	.15	5	.15					Pocket marsh	I
169	Folly Creek	3.3	90	2.97			5	.17	5	.17					Long narrow, fringe, marsh dominated by tall form sc	I
170	Ross Branch-Folly Creek	16	85	13.60			5	.80	5	.80	5	.80			Pocket marsh, dominated by tall form sc, narrow upland border of sms, sb, bn	I

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SECTION IV METOMKIN BAY TO WACHAPREAGUE

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%		%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
171	Ross Branch Folly Creek	1.0	50	.50			30	.30	20	.20					Marsh tump, higher elevations toward center vegetated with sms, sb	I
172	Ross Branch Folly Creek	1.0	97	.97			1.5	.02	1.5	.02					Long, narrow fringe marsh, dominated by Sc.	I
173	Folly Creek	2.6	95	2.47			2.5	.07	2.5	.07					Pocket marsh, not indicated on U.S.G.S. map (1968)	I
174	Folly Creek	4.6	95	4.37			2.5	.12	2.5	.12					Fringe marsh, dominated by tall form Sc.	I
175	Folly Creek	3.4	100	3.4											Marsh tump, tall form Sc.	I
176	Folly Creek	100	95	95			2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5					Broad fringe marsh, mainly tall form Sc.	I
177	Cross Creek	55.1	95	52.35			2.5	1.38	2.5	1.38					Fringe marsh, dominated by tall forms sc, short form at Henry's Pt.	I
178	Knock Knees Gut	770	95	731.50	5	38.50									Large marsh island, mainly short form sc, tall form along tidal guts	I
179	Long Boat Creek	320	92	294.40	4	12.80			4	12.80					Marsh island, isolated old spoil mounds along channel.	I
180	Thrasher Gut	129	90	116.10	6	7.74			4	5.16					Marsh island, mainly short form sc, sw & sb on old spoil mounds	I
181	Snead Beach Channel	308	90	277.2	4	12.32	2	6.16	4	12.32			sl,sg so -	-	Disturbance around abandoned C.G. station, nontidal pond	I
182	Snead Beach	181	95	171.95	3	5.43	1	1.81	1	1.81			sl,sg so -	-	Dominated by short form sc, low, sandy pine ridge fringe, with sms & sb	I
183	Great Channel	232	80	185.60	3	6.96	15	34.8	2	4.64			sl,sg bg -	-	Saltmarsh meadow, NE part of marsh. sms & sb along marsh/dune line	I
184	Southwest Gut	393	95	373.35	5	19.65									Low marsh, dominated by short form sc. Tall form along guts	I

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SECTION IV METOMKIN BAY TO WACHAPREAGUE

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
185	Great Channel	172	93	159.96	3	5.16	2	3.44	2	3.44					Extensive marsh grading to low dunes	I
186	Cross Creek	Small marsh creek system, dredged and filled. Saltmarsh cordgrass was the apparent dominant species.														
187	Cross Gut Marsh	266	97	258.02	3	7.98									Low extensive marsh, dominated by short form sc. sw associated with short form sc	I
188	Great Channel	522	97	506.34	3	15.66									Low marsh island, guts fringed with tall form sc, balance dominated by low form sc	I
189	Custis Creek	353	85	300.05	1	3.53	6	21.18	6	21.18	1	3.53	c+	3.53	Low creek marsh, narrow meandering channel, dominated by tall form sc	I
190	Burtons Shore	24	70	16.80	2.5	.60	5	1.20	20	4.80			s1	.60	Broad fringe and embayed marsh broad upland zone with higher marsh plants	I
191	Burtons Bay	10	70	7	5	.50	10	1.00	10	1.00			s1	.50	Narrow marsh fringe, large diked spoil area behind fringe towards lower end	I
192	Burtons Bay	5	50	2.50	5	.25	20	1.00	20	1.00			s1	.25	Fringe of sc, low dike with higher marsh plants within. (sms, sb)	I
193	Sloop Channel	904	94	849.76	4	36.16	2	18.08	-						Extensive marsh dominated by short form sc	I
194	Great Gut Cove	227.8	95	216.41	3	6.83	2	4.56	-						Extensive marsh dominated by short form sc, sms near dune line	I
195	Cedar Island	98.5	94	92.59	4	3.94	2	1.97					s1	-	Irregular fringing marsh, large area covered by sand overwash	I
196	Trout Channel	74.5	97	72.27	2	1.49	1	.75	-				s1	-	Extensive embayed marsh some overwash	I
197	Brandywine Channel	63.6	97	61.69	3	1.91									Low marsh island mainly tall form sc	I
198	Sandy Point Islands	349	97	338.53	3	10.47									Low marsh islands, mixed tall and short forms sc	I

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## Section V. Wachapreague Inlet and Quinby Inlet

This section has the largest marsh acreage (16,068.9 acres) of any of the sections of the Atlantic Ocean shoreline of Accomack County. In this area, the marsh and lagoon (shallow bays) system is broader than systems of Sections III and IV to the north. Interspersed with the marshes are relatively large shallow bays and tidal flats.

Nearly all of the marshes in this section are identical to the maritime Eastern Shore marshes in that they are dominated by short form Saltmarsh Cordgrass (Type I). One large marsh that is an exception to this situation is a large embayed meadow (Type II) (#226A) on Parramore Island. This marsh is dominated by Saltmeadow Hay with Salt Grass being common in low depressions or around the margins of pans or large salt ponds. The large, shallow salt ponds located immediately seaward of Little Beach appear to be flooded only on spring or storm tides. Periodically the ponds are nearly dry. Interspersed throughout this marsh meadow (#226A) are the "Parramore Pimple" mounds. These low, circular or elliptical mounds resemble low dunes vegetated by shrubs such as Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), Groundsel Tree and Marsh Elder along the perimeter with grasses such as Wire Grasses *Aristida* spp. and other herbaceous species on the highest part of the "pimple." Some larger, and presumably older, mounds support stands of pines and cedar around the sloping margins. The origin of these formations is still undetermined.

Another smaller, embayed marsh (#223A) near North Pond apparently has limited tidal actions according to our observations. Much of the marsh is dominated by Saltmarsh Cordgrass. Two marshes (#222, 228) have diked spoil sites that were nearly devoid of vegetation during field observations (June, 1975). Other marshes in this section have been partially covered by a thin veneer of spoil. These impacted marshes are indicated in the tables.

The Chimney Pole Marshes (#240, 241, 242), just inside Quinby Inlet, suffer from sand overwash and erosion at their eastern exposure to the Inlet.

SECTION IV METOMKIN BAY TO WACHAPREAGUE

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
199	Gates Bay	759.5	95	721.52	5	37.98									Large marsh island, intertidal bay	I
200	Hammock Cove	422	98	413.56	2	8.44									Large marsh island, dominated by sc. Extensive oyster flats in Hammock Cove	I
201	Fools Gut	411	93	382.23	5	20.55	1	4.11	1	4.11					Marsh island, elongated spoil mound, vegetated mainly with sms, sb	I
202	Wachapreague	151	95	143.45	2	3.02	3	4.53	-						Broad fringe marsh, dominated by short form sc, narrow upland border	I
203	Nickawampus Creek	186	90	167.40	1	1.86	3	5.58	2	3.72	3	5.58	sl 1	1.86	Creek marsh, dominated by tall form sc	I
204	Lower Finney Creek	33.9	90	30.51	-		5	1.70	5	1.70			sl -		Broad fringe marsh, upland border of sms & sb	I
205	Island - Finney Creek	14.8	95	14.06	2	.30	1.5	.22	1.5	.22					Marsh island, mainly intertidal	I
206	Upper Finney Creek	124	80	99.20	-		8	9.92	4	4.96	8	9.92			Creek marsh, dominated by sc, sms, sb, bn toward upper reach	I
207	Finney Creek	29	80	23.2			1	.29	1	.29	18	5.22			Ragged fringe marsh, mainly sc, colonies of bn	I
208	Upper Haul Over	158	95	150.10	2	3.16	2	3.16	1	1.58					Broad fringe marsh, evidence of old dike	I
209	Haul Over	84	90	75.60	7	5.88	-		1	.84			sl 2	1.68	Mainly sc, isolated spoil mounds	I
	TOTAL THIS SECTION	9326.8		8641.95		337.64		155.8		139.54		26.76		25.12		

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ct = Cattail  
ds = Salt Grass

mh = Marsh Hibiscus  
mm = Marsh Mallow  
rg = Reed Grass  
sb = Saltbushes  
sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass  
sg = Switch Grass

sl = Sea Lavender  
sms = Saltmedow Hay-Salt Grass  
so = Sea Oxeye  
sw = Saltwort  
wh = Water Hemp

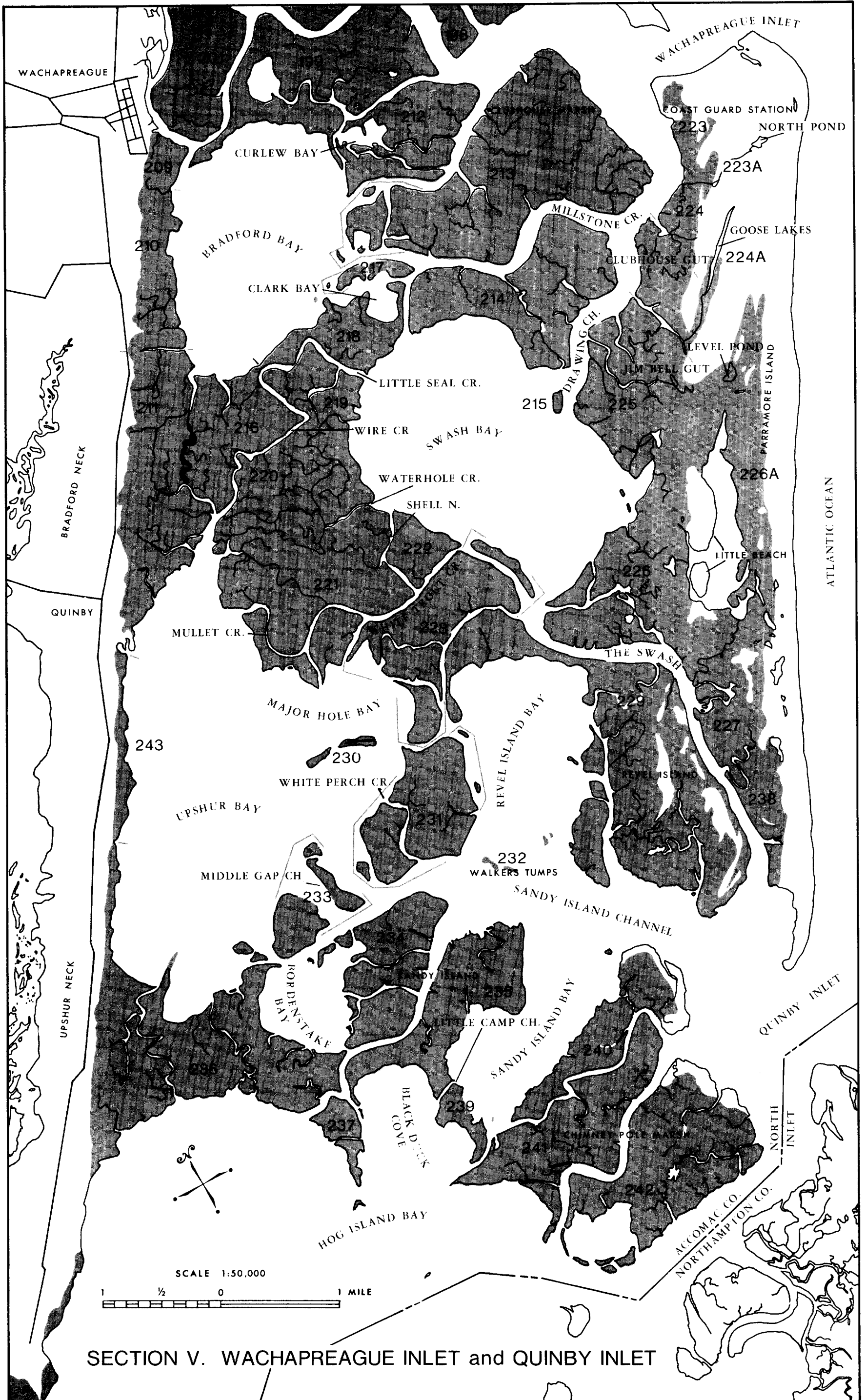
## SECTION V WACHAPREAGUE INLET TO QUINBY INLET

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
210	Bradford Bay	275	90	247.50	8	22.00	1	2.75	1	2.75	1				Extensive fringe marsh, scattered areas of uncontained spoil, vegetated with sw	I
211	Bradford Neck	768	93	714.24	3	23.04	2	15.36	2	15.36					Extensive marsh, mainly sc, upland border grading from sw, sms, sb	I
212	Curlew Bay	438	95	416.10	5	21.90									Large marsh area, dominated by sc, shallow intertidal pond	I
213	Clubhouse Marsh	1364	90	1227.6	8	109.12							s1,2	27.28	Extensive marsh island, erosion and sand overwash along inlet shoreline	I
214	Millstone Creek	689	92	633.88	8	55.12									Large marsh island, lower elevations tall form sc, higher elevation short form sc & sw	I
215	Drawing Channel Island	8	95	7.60	5	.40									Marsh tump, dominated by sc	I
216	Wire Creek	372	95	353.4	5	18.60									Large marsh island, dominated by short form sc	I
217	Clark Bay	48.5	97	47.04	3	1.46									Marsh island, dominated by short form sc	I
218	Little Seal Creek	283	95	268.85	5	14.15									Marsh island, dominated by short form sc	I
219	Swash Bay	140	98	137.20	2	2.80									Marsh island, tall form sc along guts, short form sc dominating	I
220	Waterhole Creek	385	98	377.30	2	7.70									(as above)	I
221	Mullet Creek	1150	98	1127.00	2	23.00									Extensive marsh, tall form along guts & channels, short form elsewhere	I
222	Shell Narrows	134	97	130.00	3	4.00									Diked dried spoil, no vegetation on spoil	I
223	Coast Guard Station	190.5	70	133.35	8	15.24	20	38.1	2	3.80			s1,-		Disturbance and spoil near U.S.C.G. Station. Meadows near uplands	I

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SECTION V. WACHAPREAGUE INLET and QUINBY INLET

SECTION V WACHAPREAGUE INLET TO QUINBY INLET

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
235	Lower Sandy Island	525	96	504	4	21.00									Low marsh island, mainly tall form sc	I
236	Upshur Bay - Bordenstake Bay	1209	95	1148.55	5	60.45	-		-						Extensive marsh, mainly short form sc	I
237	Black Duck Cove	87.5	96	84.0	4	3.5									Marsh islands, mainly tall form sc	I
238	Lower Parramore Island	200	90	180	4	8.00	5	10.00	1	2.00			bg,sl	-	Low sc marsh grading into dunes, transition zone of sp	I
239	Little Camp Channel	70	96	67.2	4	2.80									Low sc island	I
240	Upper Chimney Pole Marsh	350	92	322.0	8	28.00	-		-						Sand overwash along sandy island channel, vegetated with sms, sb cedar & beach grass	I
241	Middle Chimney Pole Marsh	611	95	580.45	5	30.55	-								sc marsh, eroding along eastern shoreline	I
242	Lower Chimney Pole Marsh	747	92	687.24	8	59.76									sc marsh, sw growing on overwash (Quinby Inlet), Tar Bay exposed at low tide	I
243	Upshur Neck	130	80	104	5	6.50	10	13.00	5	6.50					Ragged fringe marsh, upland border of sms,sb	I
	TOTAL SECTION V	16068.90		14189.82		873.59		796.58		125.85						

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SECTION V WACHAPREAGUE INLET TO QUINBY INLET

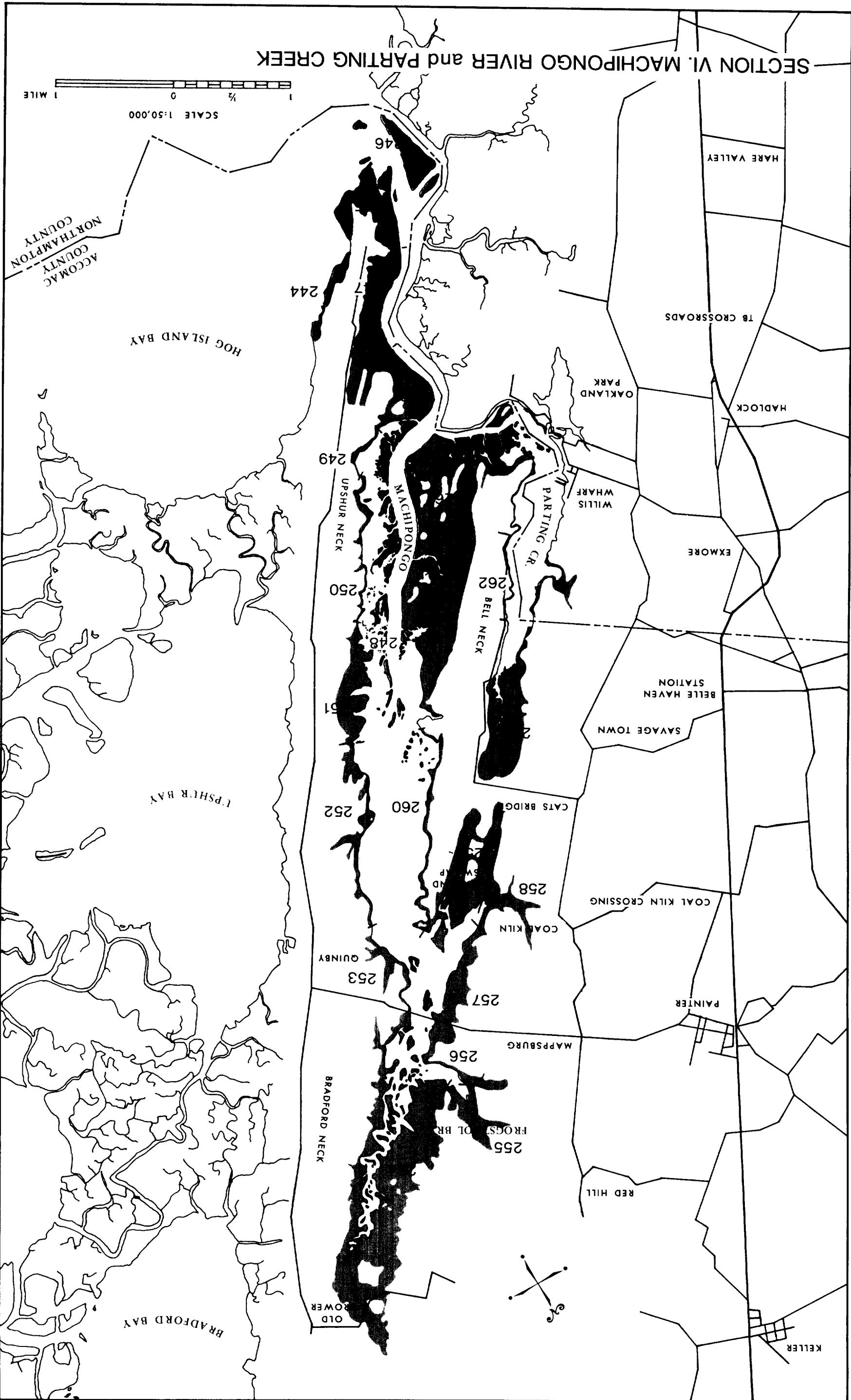
#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%		%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
223A	North Pond	12	70	8.40	2	.24	20	2.40	8	.96			so,-		Embayed marsh, limited tidal communication	I
224	Clubhouse Gut	226	82	185.32	4	9.04	10	22.60	2	4.52			sl,1 so,1	2.26 2.26	Marsh dominated by short form sc, tall form sc along guts, sms, sb along upland border	I
224A	Goose Lakes	41			6	2.46	80	32.8	10	4.10			so,2 bg,2	.82 .82	Lower part of Goose Lake (dam) is tidal dominated by sms	I
225	Jim Bell Gut	651	75	488.25	10	65.10	10	65.10	2	13.02			sl,1 so,2	6.51 13.02	Landward part of marsh grading into meadow	I
226	Little Beach	993	82	814.26	5	49.65	10	99.30	1	9.93			sl,1 so,1	9.93 9.93	Extensive marsh dominated by short form sc, broad transition zone of sms, sw, sb	I
226A	Level Pond-Little Beach	511	-		5	25.55	85	434.35	8	40.88			bg,1 sl,- so,1	5.11 5.11	Large meadow area, many pimple mounds interspersed. Many pans and ponds	II
227	Parramore Island	419	85	356.15	5	20.95	8	33.52	2	8.38			sl,- so,-		Extensive marsh dominated by sc, sms grading into dunes	II
228	White Trout Creek	577	94	542.38	6	34.62									Mixture of tall and short form sc. Diked spoil, sl, sc growing on peat dike	I
229	Revel Island	1365	92	1255.80	5	68.25	2	27.30	1	13.65			sl,- so,-		Extensive marsh, narrow upland border, scattered areas of old uncontained spoil	I
230	Major Hole Bay	19	90	17.10	10	1.90									Low marsh tumps	I
231	White Perch Creek	460.9	94	433.25	6	27.65									Low marsh islands dominated by short form sa	I
232	Walkers Tumps	2	96	1.92	4	.08									Low marsh tumps	I
233	Middle Gap Channel	187	96	179.52	4	7.48									Low marsh islands, scattered pans with little vegetation	I
234	Sandy Island	430.5	95	408.97	5	21.53	-								Low marsh islands, mainly tall form sc	I

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SECTION VI. MACHIPONGO RIVER and PARTING CREEK



## Section VI. Machipongo River and Parting Creek

Most of the marshes in this section are found in the Machipongo River/Parting Creek system. The dominate marsh community in this area is Saltmarsh Cordgrass (Type I). The largest marshes in this section are marsh #254 at the upper end of Machipongo River with 635 acres and Bell Neck Swamp (#261) totaling 697 acres. The former wetland is characterized as a creek marsh with many marsh islands or "Tumps" in the meandering channel. The intertidal zone is dominated by Cordgrass with meadow and saltbushes commonly found along the marsh/upland border and at the very upper end of the marsh, near Old Tower. Bell Neck Swamp, which is actually a marsh, is dominated by short form Saltmarsh Cordgrass with Saltwort, Saltmeadow Hay, and saltbushes growing on sandy areas of slightly higher elevations. There are a number of sandy areas that are nearly devoid of vegetation. These areas are indicative of uncontained spoil sites.

A long chain of low marsh islands (#248), dominated by tall form Saltmarsh Cordgrass parallels the main channel of the Machipongo River, opposite Bell Neck Swamp. Scattered tufts and clumps of Cordgrass are found on the tidal flats between these islands and Upshur Neck. As sediment accumulates through time, these flats will likely become intertidal marshes.

SECTION VI MACHIPONGO RIVER AND PARTING CREEK

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type	
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
258	Moreland Swamp	36	90	32.40	2	.72	5	1.80	3	1.08					Creek marsh dominated by tall form sc	I	
259	Moreland Swamp	148	85	125.80	2	2.96	8	11.84	5	7.4					Embayed marsh, dominated by tall form sc	I	
260	Machipongo River	16	95	15.20	2	.32	2	.32	1	.16					Long, narrow fringe marsh, dominated by tall form sc	I	
261	Bell Neck Swamp	697	60	418.20	25	174.25	7	48.79	3	20.91			bg,2 so,3	13.94 20.91	Very broad fringe marsh, scattered hummocks. Sandy areas dominated by sw	I	
262	Parting Creek	8	85	6.80	3	.24	10	.80	2	.16			so,- sl,-		Long, narrow fringe marsh, dominated by sc	I	
263	Upper Parting Creek	166	80	132.80	8	13.28	8	13.28	2	3.32			so,1 sl,1	1.65 1.65	Creek marsh, with scattered hummocks	I	
	TOTAL SECTION VI	2 539.5		1942.59		245.25		232.03		70.75				6.80	42.10		
	Total acreage for the																
	Ocean side of Accomack County	46452.46		40600.		2077.3		2307.4		978.96				61.67	426.19		

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ct = Cattail	sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass	wh = Water Hemp
ds = Salt Grass	sg = Switch Grass	

SECTION VI MACHIPONGO RIVER AND PARTING CREEK

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		sw		sms		sb		bn		Other		Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%		%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres		
244	Upshur Neck	21	70	14.70	10	2.10	15	3.15	5	1.05			sl,so		Ragged fringe marsh, marsh upland transition zone of sw, sms, sb, dominated by sc	I
245	Mouth Machipongo River	111	90	99.90	5	5.55	3	3.33	2	2.22					Extensive point marsh with marsh tumps, dominated by short form sc, narrow upland border	I
246	Islands, Machipongo River	80	95	76.0	5	4.00									Low marsh islands, mainly intertidal	I
247	Machipongo River	129	90	116.1	2	2.58	6	7.74	2	2.58					Broad fringe marsh, mainly short form sc, tall form along guts. Narrow upland border of sms, sb	I
248	Machipongo River	181	90	162.9	3	5.43	5	9.05	2	3.62					System of embayed & fringe marshes and marsh island complex. Island dominated by tall sa	I
249	Machipongo River	2	95	1.90	2	.04	2	.04	1	.02					Narrow fringe marsh, mainly sc	I
250	Machipongo River	25	95	23.75	2	.50	2	.50	1	.25					Long, narrow fringe marsh mainly sc	I
251	Machipongo River	84	85	71.40	3	2.52	10	8.4	2	1.68					Broad fringe marsh with cover mainly sc with scattered meadows	I
252	Machipongo River	16	70	11.2	2	.32	12	1.92	1	.16	15	2.40			Narrow fringe marsh with embayed pockets	I
253	Machipongo River	38	92	34.96	2	.76	4	1.52	2	.76			sl,- so,- bg,-		(as above)	I
254	Upper Machipongo River	635	80	508.00	2	12.70	15	95.25	3	19.05	-		bg,- sl,-		Extensive meandering creek marsh, meadow towards upper end	I
255	Frogstool Branch	53.5	65	34.78	5	2.68	20	10.70	5	2.68	3	1.61	bg,2	1.07	Creek marsh, dominated by sc with meadow of slightly higher elevations	I
256	Machipongo River	43	60	25.80	10	4.30	20	8.60	5	2.15	3	1.29	sl,1 so-1	.43 .43	Creek marsh, fringe & embayed marsh complex. Large saltwort and meadow areas	I
257	Machipongo River	50	60	30.00	20	10.00	10	5.00	3	1.50	3	1.5	sl,1 so,3	.50 1.50	Broad, ragged fringe marsh, diversity of vegetation along upland margin	I

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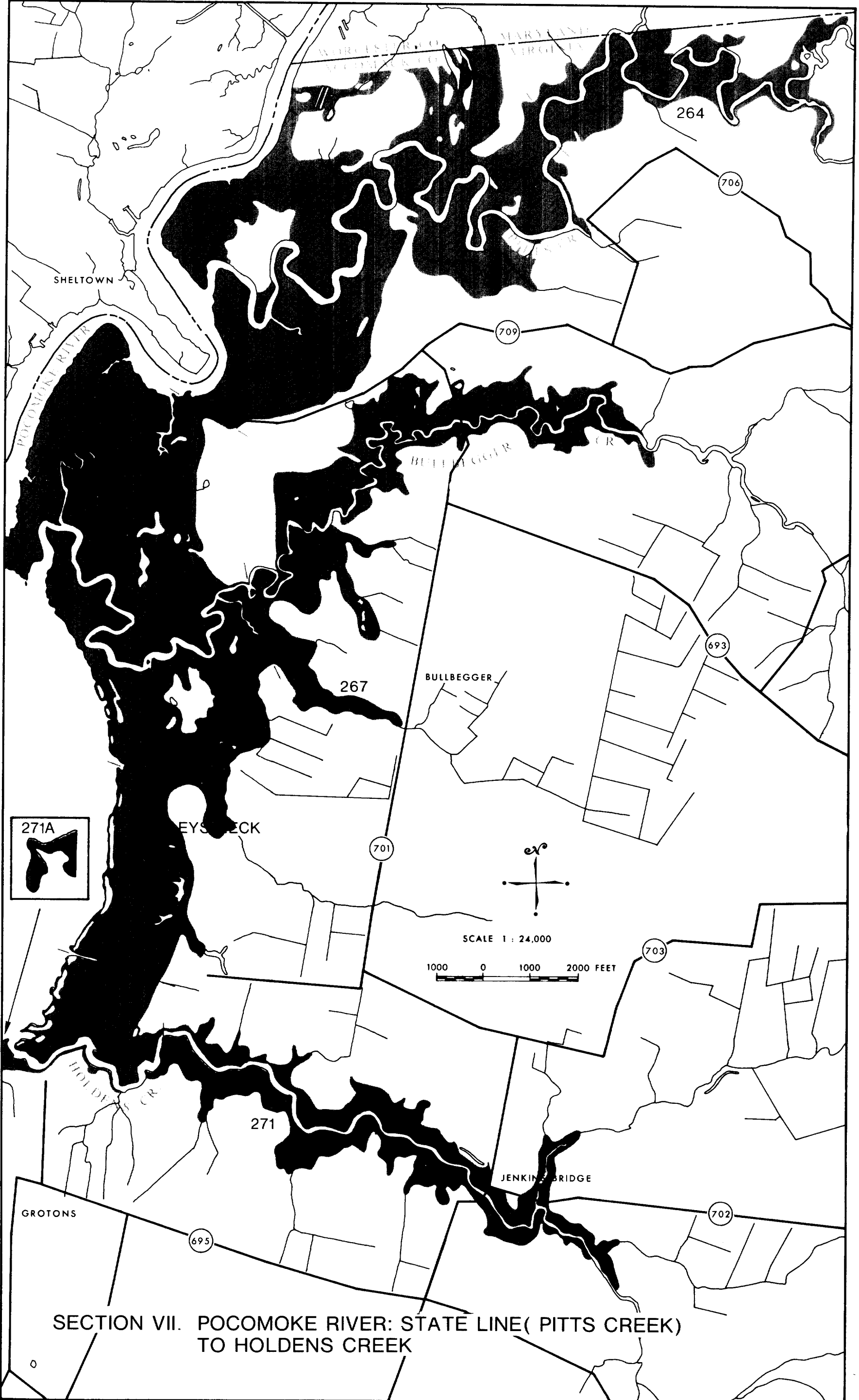
sl = Sea Lavender  
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SECTION VII. POCOMOKE RIVER: STATE LINE( PITTS CREEK) TO HOLDENS CREEK

Section VII. Pocomoke River: State Line (Pitts Creek) to Holdens Creek

Most of the marshes (78%) in this section are dominated by Big Cordgrass (Type V). This tall grass is typical in low saline marshes and usually grows at or slightly above mean high water. These marshes are excellent habitats for wildlife, particularly muskrats. Many lodges and individuals were observed. In certain areas along the Pocomoke River the marsh margins were severely eroded, probably due to wakes created by barge and boat traffic.

The marshes of this area are the most vegetatively diverse of all the tidal marshes in Accomack County. The only tidal freshwater marsh on Virginia's Eastern Shore is found at the upper end of Pitts Creek, near the Maryland Border. This marsh is dominated by Narrow-leaved Cattail, with associated species such as Arrow Arum, Pickerel-weed, Water Hemp, Tear Thumb and Yellow Pond Lily. Other species found here in trace amounts only were Northern Wild Rice, Walter's Millet, Sweet Flag (Acorus calamus), Royal Fern (Osmunda regalis), Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis), and others. Because of the uniqueness of this marsh, consideration should be made for its preservation.

The very upper ends of Bullbeggar and Holdens Creeks also have small communities of marsh vegetation indicative of freshwater influence. Such species as Wild Rice, Marsh Hibiscus, Tear Thumb, Water Dock, Water Hemp and others are found here, but only in trace amounts.

### Section VIII. Freeschool Marsh - Saxis Area

This marsh system is basically one natural unit, namely Freeschool Marsh. However, because of the vegetational complexity of this diverse marsh and the impact of road construction, it has been compartmentalized into eight units (#272-279) where it seemed appropriate to do so. Where the marsh was arbitrarily subdivided by roads, these units were assigned a marsh number. Freeschool Marsh, disregarding the subdivisions, is the largest marsh on the bay side of Virginia's Eastern Shore. The only natural units in this section are Tunnel Marsh and the Dicks Point area (#278-279).

All of the units in this marsh system except Tunnel Island are classified as Type XII, Brackish Water Mixed Communities. The most common marsh plant species found here are Black Needlerush, Saltmeadow Hay, Salt Grass, Olney Threesquare, American Threesquare, Saltmarsh Bulrush and saltbushes. Marshes of this type support a variety of wildlife. Muskrat lodges were particularly numerous in the stands of Threesquares and Saltmarsh Bulrushes. There are a number of shallow ponds in this marsh system, especially in units #274 and #276. Along with food and cover sources, these ponds give this wetland area a great potential for attracting waterfowl.

Tunnel Island is a low marsh island dominated by Saltmarsh Cordgrass. Most of the Chesapeake Bay shoreline of this marsh island is largely sand beach with a berm immediately behind it vegetated with saltbushes.

Much of the marsh in the immediate vicinity of Saxis has been channelized, spoiled upon or filled. Road construction likely has affected the drainage patterns in the system, although general observations indicate that the marsh system on the whole is relatively healthy. Scattered hummocks in the marsh with single individual small colonies of tall Loblolly Pine gives the general landscape a savannah-like appearance.

Section VII Pocomoke River: State Line (Pitts Creek) to Holdens Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type			
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres				%	acres	
264	Upper Pitts Creek	152.76									2	3.06	85	129.85								ap 5 wh 2	7.64	yp1 1 tt 5	1.53	(See text)	VI	
265	Upper Pitts Creek	691.0					1	6.91	2	13.82	93	642.63	1	6.91			1	6.91				ap 1 wh 1	6.91			Extensive, Big Cordgrass Marsh.	V	
266	Pitts Neck	433.0	2	8.66					3	12.99	95	411.35														Extensive, Big Cordgrass Marsh.	V	
267	Upper Bullbegger Creek	258.00	1	2.58					5	12.90	90	232.20	2	5.16			1	2.58				wh	1	2.58	sw- wd- bt- tt- ap- mm-	rg- wm- mh-	Creek Marsh, dominated by Big Cordgrass.	V
268	Bullbegger Creek - Jolleys Neck	328.00	2	6.56	-				3	9.84	95	311.60														Extensive, Big Cordgrass Marsh.	V	
269	Jolleys Neck	170.00			25	42.50	40	68.00			35	59.5			-										mm- sb-		Extensive, mixed brackish water marsh.	XII
270	Jolleys Neck - Holdens Creek	91.00	5	4.55	2	1.82	20	18.20	25	22.75	20	18.20			-		25	22.75	-			rg	3	2.73			Extensive, mixed brackish water marsh.	XII
271	Holdens Creek	191.00	-		-				10	19.10	85	162.35	-		-							wh	5	9.55	rg- wr- mh- wd-	mm- as-	Creek marsh, dominated by Big Cordgrass.	V
271A	Mouth Holdens Creek	23.00	5	1.15			5	1.15	90	20.70																	High point marsh dominated by salt-bushes.	IV
	Total This Section	2337.7		23.50		44.32		94.26		112.10		1840.8		141.92				32.24										

ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed  
as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster  
bc = Big Cordgrass  
bn = Black Needlerush

bt = Beggar's-ticks  
ct = Cattails  
mf = Marsh Fleabane  
mh = Marsh Hibiscus

mm = Marsh Mallow  
rg = Reed Grass  
sa = Saltmarsh Aster  
sb = Saltbush  
sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass

sg = Switch Grass  
sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass  
sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush  
sw = Saltwort

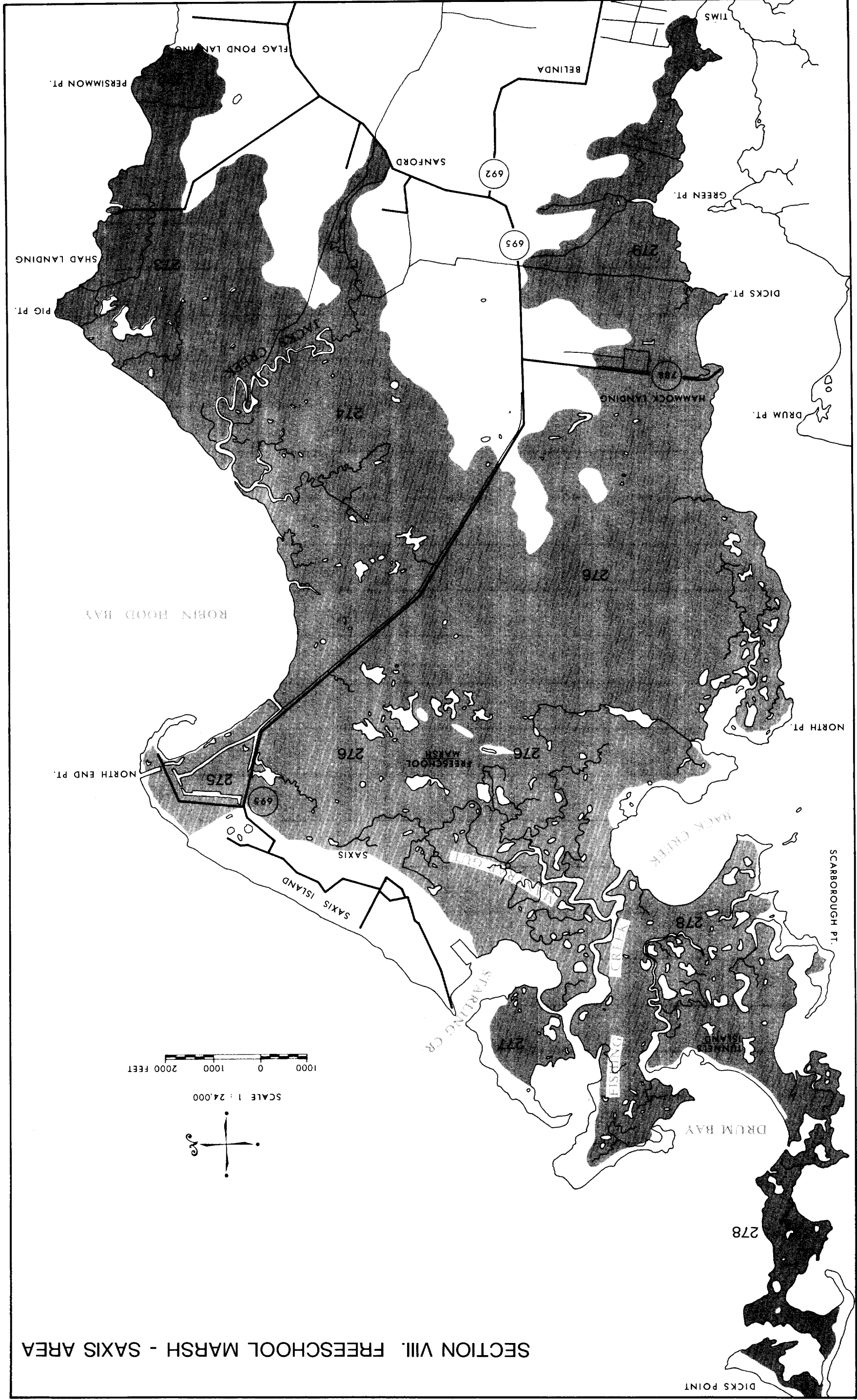
swd = Smartweed  
ts = Threesquare  
tt = Tearthumb  
wd = Water Dock

wh = Water Hemp  
wm = Walter's Millet  
wr = Wild Rice  
yp1 = Yellow Pond Lily

Section VIII Freeschool Marsh - Saxis Area

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type			
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres				%	acres	
272	Persimmon Point	99.00	5	4.95	40	39.60	10	9.90	10	9.90	10	9.90					10	9.90			rg	5	4.45	sg	10	9.90	Extensive, mixed brackish water marsh, large muskrat population.	XII
273	Pig Point	342.0	3	10.26	40	136.80	15	51.30	-		7	23.94			15	51.30	20	68.40								Extensive, mixed brackish marsh.	XII	
274	Robin Hood Bay	644.0	5	32.20	30	193.20	30	193.20	5	32.20					15	96.60	15	96.60								Extensive, mixed brackish marsh.	XII	
275	North End Point	87.00	15	13.05	30	26.10	40	34.80	5	4.35	-												rg	10	8.70	Portion of extensive marsh with small spit area mixed brackish water area.	XII	
276	Freeschool Marsh	1808.0	15	271.2	40	723.04	13	235.04	4	72.32	-		3	54.24	10	180.8	15	271.2								Extensive, diverse marsh, large muskrat population.	XII	
277	Starling Creek	50.00	30	15.00	2	1.00	40	20.00	18	9.00	-				-								rg	10	5.00	Marsh island with mixed marsh vegetation.	XII	
278	Tunnel Island	522.00	65	339.30	8	41.76	20	104.4	5	26.10					-		1	5.22	-				rg	1	5.22	Low marsh island, dominated by sc.	I	
279	Dicks Point	284.00	25	71.0	40	113.60	10	28.4	25	71.00					-		-									Large fringe marsh, sc in the intertidal zone, with bn and sb zone behind.	XII	
	Total This Section	3836		756.96		1275.2		677.0		224.8		33.84		54.24		328.7		451.3										

- |                               |                     |                          |                                 |                  |                        |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed | bt = Beggar's-ticks | mm = Marsh Mallow        | sg = Switch Grass               | swd = Smartweed  | wh = Water Hemp        |
| as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster   | ct = Cattails       | rg = Reed Grass          | sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass | ts = Threesquare | wm = Walter's Millet   |
| bc = Big Cordgrass            | mf = Marsh Fleabane | sa = Saltmarsh Aster     | sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush          | tt = Tearthumb   | wr = Wild Rice         |
| bn = Black Needlerush         | mh = Marsh Hibiscus | sb = Saltbush            | sw = Saltwort                   | wd = Water Dock  | ypl = Yellow Pond Lily |
| 50                            |                     | sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass |                                 |                  |                        |



SECTION VIII. FREESCHOOL MARSH - SAXIS AREA

### Section IX. Michael Marsh to Guilford Creek

This section has the largest acreage of marsh (5,024 acres) of any of the sections on the Chesapeake Bay side of Accomack County. The largest marsh in this section is Michael Marsh (#284) with 1796 acres. Michael Marsh is dominated by Black Needlerush (Type III). This rush characteristically grows in dense, monotypic colonies of nearly uniform height at elevations at or slightly above mean high water. Many of the marshes on the western shore of Accomack County are dominated by this marsh plant and they represent the most extensive Type III marshes in Virginia. Saltmarsh Cordgrass (Type I) is commonly found in the intertidal zone of the numerous creeks, guts and protected coves.

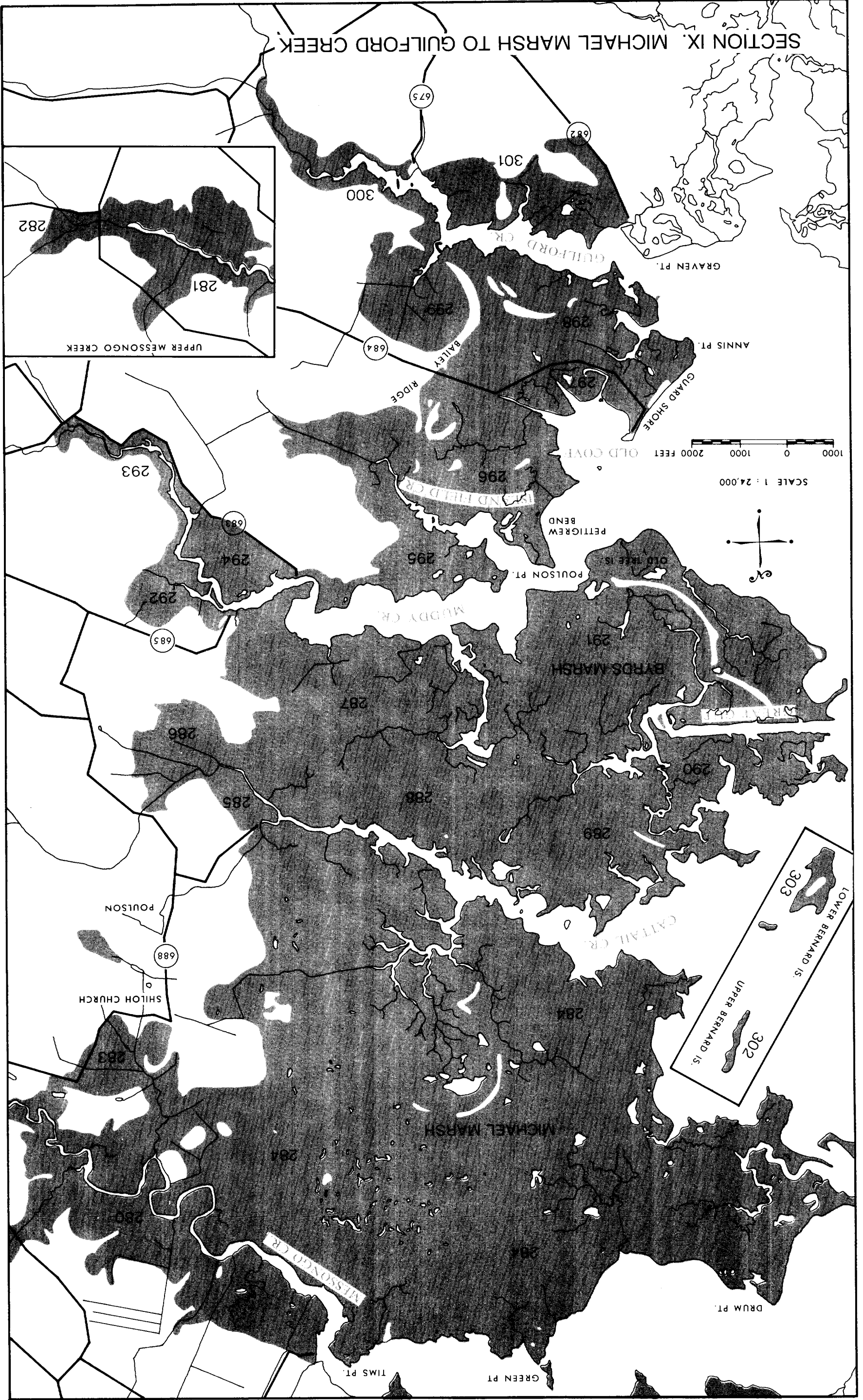
A common physiographic feature on Virginia's Eastern Shore, as well as the coastal regions from New Jersey to Florida, are the "Carolina Bays".<sup>1</sup> These features resemble low, circular or elliptical ridges of various dimensions. These curious formations, when evident in marshes, appear as crescent-shaped hummocks vegetated with Loblolly Pine, Cedar, Wax Myrtle and various species of upland plants. Several "Bays" occur in the following marshes of this section:

- a. Central portion of Michael Marsh (#284)
- b. Southeastern part of Byrd Marsh near Great Gut (#291).
- c. Bailey Ridge itself, Bailey Ridge Marsh (#298, 297).

A number of narrow ditches and channels are found throughout this marsh system, many of which extend into uplands. Apparently, their primary use is to facilitate drainage of uplands.

<sup>1</sup>Cooke, C. Wythe. 1954. Carolina Bays and the Shapes of Eddies. Geological Survey Prof. Paper 254-1. Wash., DC.

SECTION IX. MICHAEL MARSH TO GUILFORD CREEK



Section IX Michael Marsh to Guilford Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
280	Messongo Creek	274	10	27.4	40	109.6	15	41.10	25	68.50	8	21.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	wh 2	5.48	Diverse marsh, ditches and channels.	XII
281	Upper Messongo Creek	166.8	5	8.34	30	50.04	20	33.36	30	50.04	12	20.00	1	1.67	-	-	-	-	-	rg mm	-	wh 2	3.33	Diverse creek marsh, mainly above mean high water.	XII
282	Upper Messongo Creek	15	2	.30	5	.75	40	6	40	6	5	.75	8	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	mm sg	-			Embayed creek marsh.	XII
283	Shiloh Church	82.6			85	70.21	10	8.26	5	4.13		-								rg sg				Embayed creek marsh.	III
284	Michael Marsh	1796	15	269.4	65	1167.4	15	269.40	5	89.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	sg mf	-	-	-	Extensive, black needlerush marsh. "Carolina Bay"	III
285	Cattail Creek	33	5	1.65	70	23.10	10	3.30	15	4.95					-									Section of creek marsh.	III
286	Upper Cattail Creek	59			80	47.20	10	5.90	10	5.90														Upper creek marsh, dominated by bn ditches and channels.	III
287	Byrds Marsh	309	5	15.45	60	185.40	30	92.70	5	15.45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					Section of extensive marsh, dominated bn.	III
288	Byrds Marsh	240	5	12.00	85	204.00	5	12.00	5	12.00					-									Section of extensive rush marsh.	III
289	Byrds Marsh	211	10	21.1	70	147.7	10	21.10	10	21.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					Section of Byrds Marsh, beach and berm system.	III
290	Byrds Marsh	105	45	47.25	50	52.50	2.5	2.63	2.5	2.63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					Sc along tidal creeks and guts.	III
291	Old Tree Island	541	40	216.4	45	243.45	7	37.84	8	43.28														Extensive marsh, Old Tree Is. indicative of a "Carolina Bay".	XII
292	Muddy Creek	60	10	6.00	40	24.00	20	12.00	30	18.00										wh sg fc bg	- - -			Embayed marsh, diverse vegetation.	XII
293	Upper Muddy Creek	22	60	13.2					40	8.80										wh	-			Sc in intertidal zone, sb towards upper end.	I

ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed  
as = Annual Saitmarsh Aster  
bc = Big Cordgrass  
bn = Black Needlerush

bt = Beggar's-ticks  
ct = Cattails  
mf = Marsh Fleabane  
mh = Marsh Hibiscus

mm = Marsh Mallow  
rg = Reed Grass  
sa = Saltmarsh Aster  
sb = Saltbush  
sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass

sg = Switch Grass  
sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass  
sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush  
sw = Saltwort

swd = Smartweed  
ts = Threesquare  
tt = Tearthumb  
wd = Water Dock

wh = Water Hemp  
wm = Walter's Millet  
wr = Wild Rice  
ypl = Yellow Pond Lily

Section IX Michael Marsh to Guilford Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type		
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres				%	acres
294	Muddy Creek	59	15	8.85	35	20.65	30	17.70	20	11.80												fc-wh-		Diverse creek marsh.	XII		
295	Muddy Creek	128	5	6.40	70	89.60	20	25.60	5	6.40			-											Large colonies of black needlerush.	III		
296	Island Field Creek	261	25	65.25	55	143.5	15	39.15	5	13.05												-		Large colonies of black needlerush.	III		
297	Old Cove	39	35	13.65	50	19.50	5	1.95	5	1.95			-		-								sg 5	1.95	Dredged channel, colonies of bn.	III	
298	Guilford Creek	241	25	60.25	55	132.5	10	24.10	10	24.10			-		-										Large colonies of black needlerush.	III	
299	Bailey Ridge	161	5	8.05	30	48.30	5	8.05	60	96.60															Embayed marsh, "Carolina Bay".	IV	
300	Upper Guilford Creek	84	10	8.40	35	29.40	20	16.80	35	29.40															Creek marsh, diverse vegetation.	XII	
301	Guilford Creek	125	20	25.00	55	68.75	12.5	15.63	12.5	15.63															Large colonies of black needlerush, tree hummocks.	III	
302	Upper Bernard Island	2	85	1.70			5	.10	5	.10	5	.10													Low marsh island.	I	
303	Upper Bernard Island	10	85	8.50			5	.50	5	.50	5	.50													Low marsh island.	I	
	Total This Section	5024.4		844.5		2877.6		695.17		550.11		43.27			2.87												

ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed  
as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster  
bc = Big Cordgrass  
bn = Black Needlerush

bt = Beggar's-ticks  
ct = Cattails  
mf = Marsh Fleabane  
mh = Marsh Hibiscus

mm = Marsh Mallow  
rg = Reed Grass  
sa = Saltmarsh Aster  
sb = Saltbush  
sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass

sg = Switch Grass  
sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass  
sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush  
sw = Saltwort

swd = Smartweed  
ts = Threesquare  
tt = Tearthumb  
wd = Water Dock

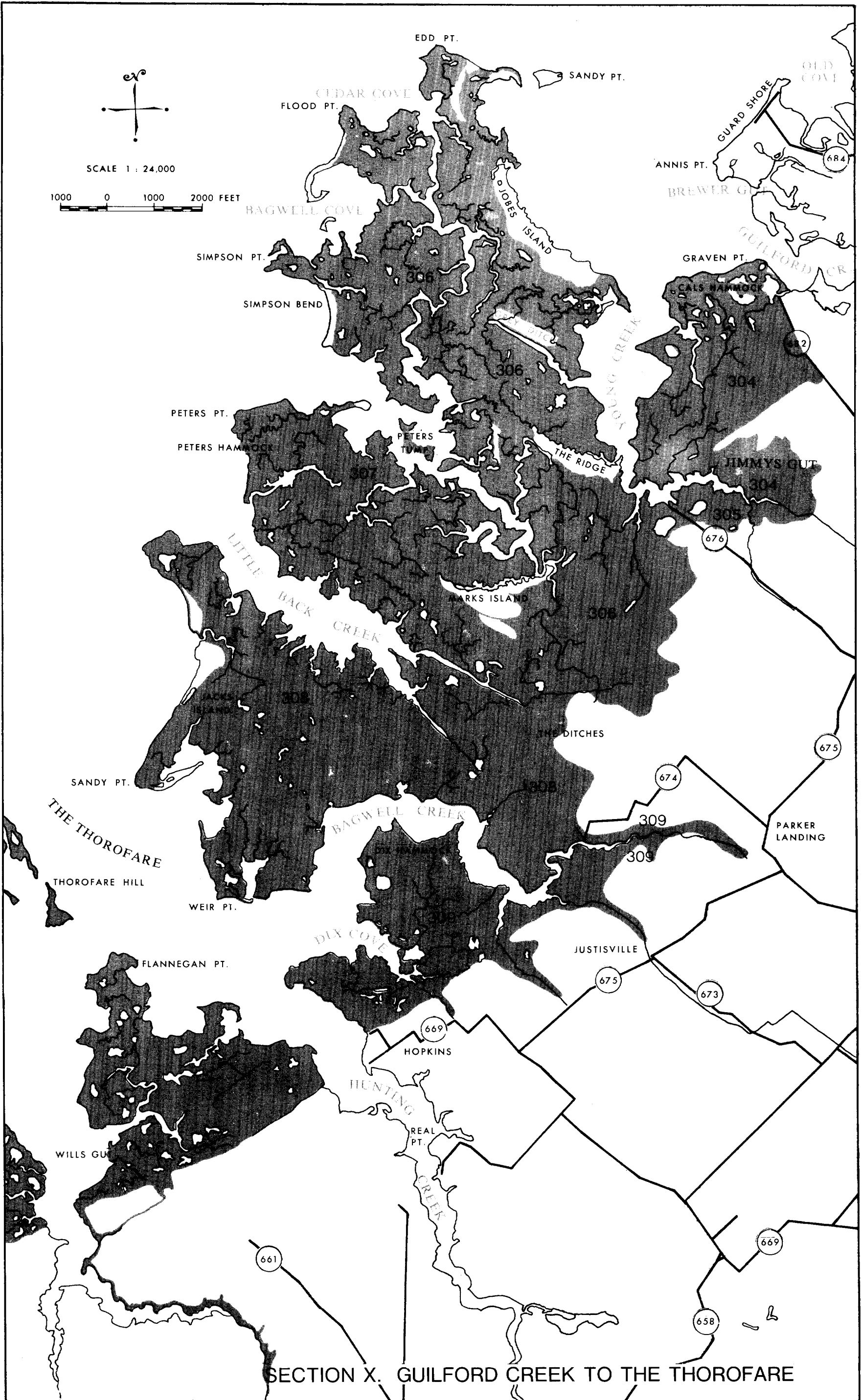
wh = Water Hemp  
wm = Walter's Millet  
wr = Wild Rice  
ypl = Yellow Pond Lily

## Section X. Guilford Creek to the Thorofare

The marshes of this section form a series of irregular peninsulas dissected by meandering tidal creeks and guts. While Black Needlerush communities (Type III) dominate this marsh system, Saltmeadow (Type II), Saltbush (Type IV), and Saltmarsh Cordgrass (Type I) communities are also found throughout.

The largest stands of Saltmarsh Cordgrass occur in the intertidal areas of Cals Hummock (#304) and Marks Island (#307). Saltbushes (Marsh Elder and Groundsel Tree) are commonly found along the marsh/upland border, on top of beach berms, on low hummocks within the marsh proper, or in marshes that are of a slightly higher elevation, such as #309. Switch Grass and Saltmeadow Hay are often associated with saltbushes on the sandy berms. Meadows of Saltmeadow Hay and Saltgrass are often interspersed among the dense Black Needlerush colonies. Very few species, however, are ever found within the rush communities due primarily to the very dense root and rhizome system and shading. Ditches are commonplace in the Marks - Jacks Island area. These ditches appear to be used for agricultural purposes.

In certain areas where a beach/berm system is absent, the marsh margin shows signs of erosion. In some places, the characteristic Cordgrass intertidal zone has been eroded away, leaving exposed Black Needlerush marshes that grow at mean high water or above.



Section X Guilford Creek to the Thorofare (Hunting Creek)

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
304	Cals Hammock	327.0	60	196.2	20	65.40	5	16.35	15	49.05														Large stands of salt-marsh cordgrass.	I
305	Jimmys Gut	48.00	2	.96	45	21.60	45	21.60	8	3.84														Diverse creek Marsh.	XII
306	Jobes Island	1119.00	20	223.8	60	671.4	10	111.9	10	111.9									mf	-	sg	-		Extensive marsh, black needlerush colonies.	III
307	Marks Island	506.0	20	101.2	65	328.9	5	25.30	10	50.60														Extensive marsh, forested ridges.	III
308	Jacks Island	835.0	5	41.75	75	584.5	10	83.50	15	125.2	-													Extensive bn marsh, ditches and dikes.	III
309	Bagwell Creek - Dix Hammock	243.0	8	19.44	45	109.3	8	19.44	35	85.05	4	9.72										wl	-	Diverse vegetation mostly high marsh.	XII
	Total This Section	3078.0		583.35		1781.1		278.0		425.6		9.72													

ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed  
as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster  
bc = Big Cordgrass  
bn = Black Needlerush

bt = Beggar's-ticks  
ct = Cattails  
mf = Marsh Fleabane  
mh = Marsh Hibiscus

mm = Marsh Mallow  
rg = Reed Grass  
sa = Saltmarsh Aster  
sb = Saltbush  
sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass

sg = Switch Grass  
sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass  
sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush  
sw = Saltwort

swd = Smartweed  
ts = Threesquare  
tt = Tearthumb  
wd = Water Dock

wh = Water Hemp  
wm = Walter's Millet  
wr = Wild Rice  
ypl = Yellow Pond Lily 57

## Section XI. Hunting Creek to Deep Creek

This section contains three tidal creeks (Hunting Creek, Doe Creek and Deep Creek) that extend into the uplands. Characteristically, the marshes in these creeks are either pocket, fringe or creek marshes. At the very upper ends of Hunting and Deep Creeks, small stands of Big Cordgrass are found, indicating reduced salinity. Nearly the entire shoreline of Doe Creek is vegetated by fringe marsh. These fringe marshes have characteristic zones beginning with Saltmarsh Cordgrass (tall form) in the intertidal zone with Black Needlerush growing immediately behind. Typically, a saltbush community is found along the marsh/upland border. These long, narrow fringe marshes are contiguous with the pocket marshes at the upper ends of the forks of Doe Creek.

The largest marshes in this section is Flannegan Point Marsh (#319) and Curtis Cove Marsh (#324). These large (over 300 acres each) peninsular marshes have rather ragged shorelines, dissected by creeks and guts and punctuated by pans and ponds. Vegetatively, these are diverse brackish water marshes (Type XII) where no single community is dominant. Curtis Cove Marsh has a rather large Saltmarsh Bulrush component (125 acres), that provides a good wildlife food and cover.

Webb and Halfmoon Islands are largely marsh islands which apparently originated from the outer rim formation of a large "Carolina Bay." The beach and berm shoreline of Jack's Island Marsh represents a part of the same elliptical rim.<sup>1</sup> Saltbushes and meadows dominate in higher portions of the marshes near the berm. The highest part of Webb Island supports a small stand of pines.

<sup>1</sup>Cooke, C. Wythe. 1954. Carolina Bays and the Shapes of Eddies. Geological Survey Prof. Paper 254-1. Wash., D.C.

Section XI Hunting Creek to Deep Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
310	Hopkins	1.00	80	.80	15	.15			5	.05														Fringe marsh, dominated by salt-marsh cordgrass.	I
311	Hopkins	.75	70	.53	10	.08			20	.15														Cove marsh, sc in the inter-tidal zone.	I
312	Real Point	9.00	80	7.20	10	.90			10	.90														Pocket and small creek marshes.	I
313	Hunting Creek	1.75	80	1.40	5	.09			15	.26														Fringe marsh, sc with sb border.	I
314	Hunting Creek	7.00	40	2.80			10	.70	50	3.50														Fringe marsh, with broad sb zone.	IV
315	Upper Hunting Creek	29.00	5	1.45	15	4.35			50	14.50	25	7.25										wh 5	1.45	Creek marsh, and bc towards upper end of creek.	IV
316	Hunting Creek	6.00	40	2.40	25	1.50			25	1.50	10	.60												Long fringe marsh.	XII
317	Hunting Creek	1.50	80	1.20	10	.15			10	.15														Fringe and pocket marsh.	I
318	Hunting Creek	7.00	15	1.05	5	.35	10	.70	70	4.90														Embayed marsh, high marsh with sb.	IV
319	Flannegan Point	302.0	10	30.20	20	60.40	30	90.60	40	120.8	-													Extensive high marsh.	XII
320	Webb Island	101.0	50	50.50	-		30	30.30	20	20.20	-											sg	-	Marsh island with hummocks and beach.	I
321	Halfmoon Island	20.00	30	6.00	20	4.00			50	10.00														Marsh island, large sb community.	IV
322	Doe Creek	16.00	20	3.20	50	8.00	20	3.20	10	1.60	-													Fringe and creek marsh, colonies of black needlerush.	III
323	Doe Creek	8.00	20	1.60	60	4.80	10	.80	10	.80														Creek marsh dominated by black needlerush.	III

ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed  
as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster  
bc = Big Cordgrass  
bn = Black Needlerush

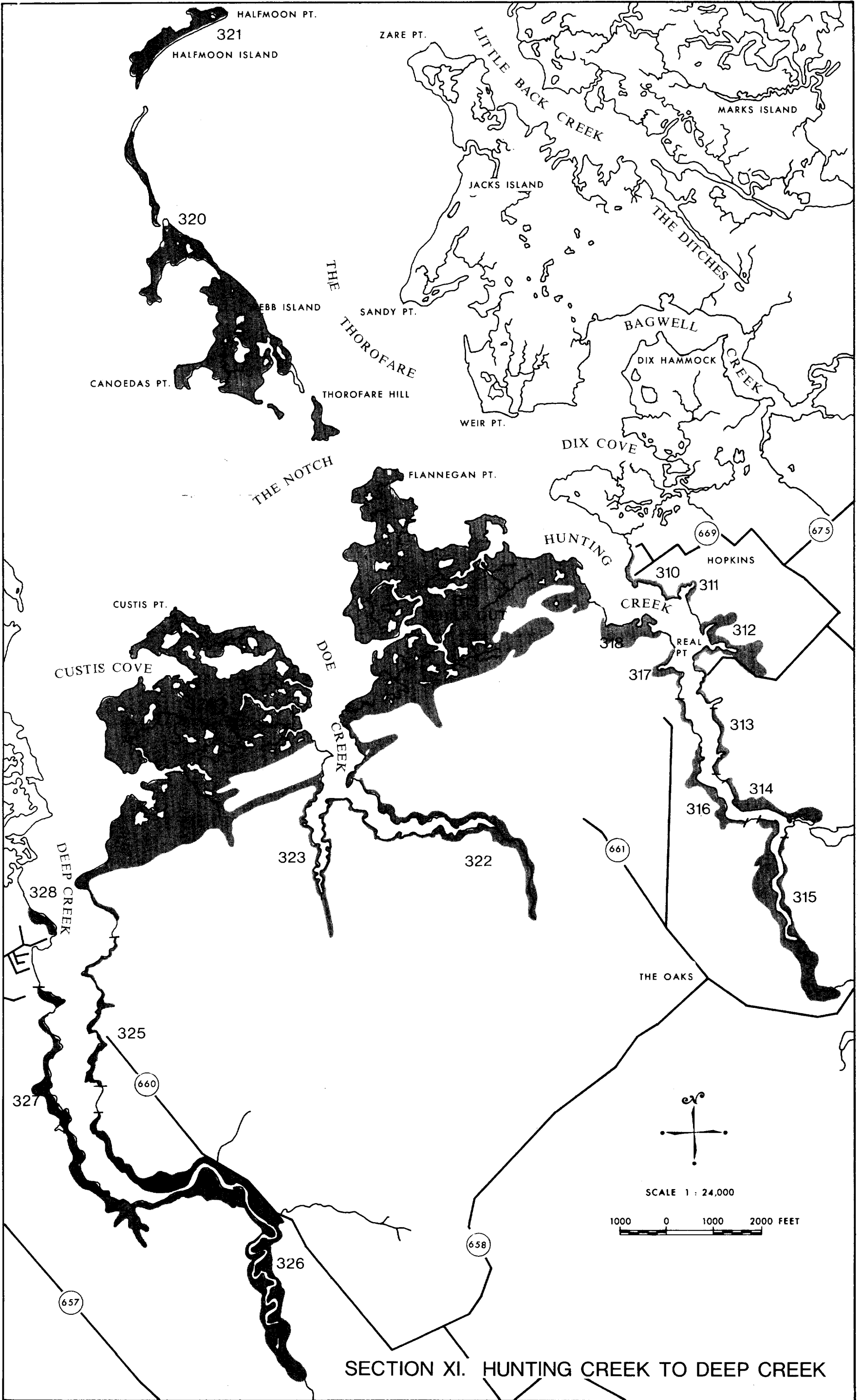
bt = Beggar's-ticks  
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mf = Marsh Fleabane  
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mm = Marsh Mallow  
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sg = Switch Grass  
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sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush  
sw = Saltwort

swd = Smartweed  
ts = Threesquare  
tt = Tearthumb  
wd = Water Dock

wh = Water Hemp  
wm = Walter's Millet  
wr = Wild Rice  
ypl = Yellow Pond Lily



SECTION XI. HUNTING CREEK TO DEEP CREEK

Section XI Hunting Creek to Deep Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type	
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres				
324	Custis Cove	313.0	10	31.30	-		30	93.90	20	62.60			-		-		40	125.2	-					Diverse marsh, large stands of sedges.	XII	
325	Deep Creek	6.00	60	3.60	10	.60	10	.60	20	1.20														Continuous fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
326	Upper Deep Creek	65.00	10	6.50	10	6.50	40	26.00	10	6.50	30	19.50	-							wh	-	rg	-	Diverse creek marsh, bc towards upper end.	XII	
327	Deep Creek	27.00	20	5.40	20	5.40	20	5.40	40	10.80	-													Broad fringe marsh with pockets.	XII	
328	Deep Creek	2.00	60	1.20			20	.40	20	.40	-													Small, broad fringe marsh.	I	
	Total This Section	923.0		158.3		97.27		252.60		260.8		27.35					125.2									

ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed	bt = Beggar's-ticks	mm = Marsh Mallow	sg = Switch Grass	swd = Smartweed	wh = Water Hemp
as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster	ct = Cattails	rg = Reed Grass	sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass	ts = Threesquare	wm = Walter's Millet
bc = Big Cordgrass	mf = Marsh Fleabane	sa = Saltmarsh Aster	sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush	tt = Tearthumb	wr = Wild Rice
bn = Black Needlerush	mh = Marsh Hibiscus	sb = Saltbush	sw = Saltwort	wd = Water Dock	ypl = Yellow Pond Lily
		sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass			

### Section XII. Big Marsh to Chesconessex Creek

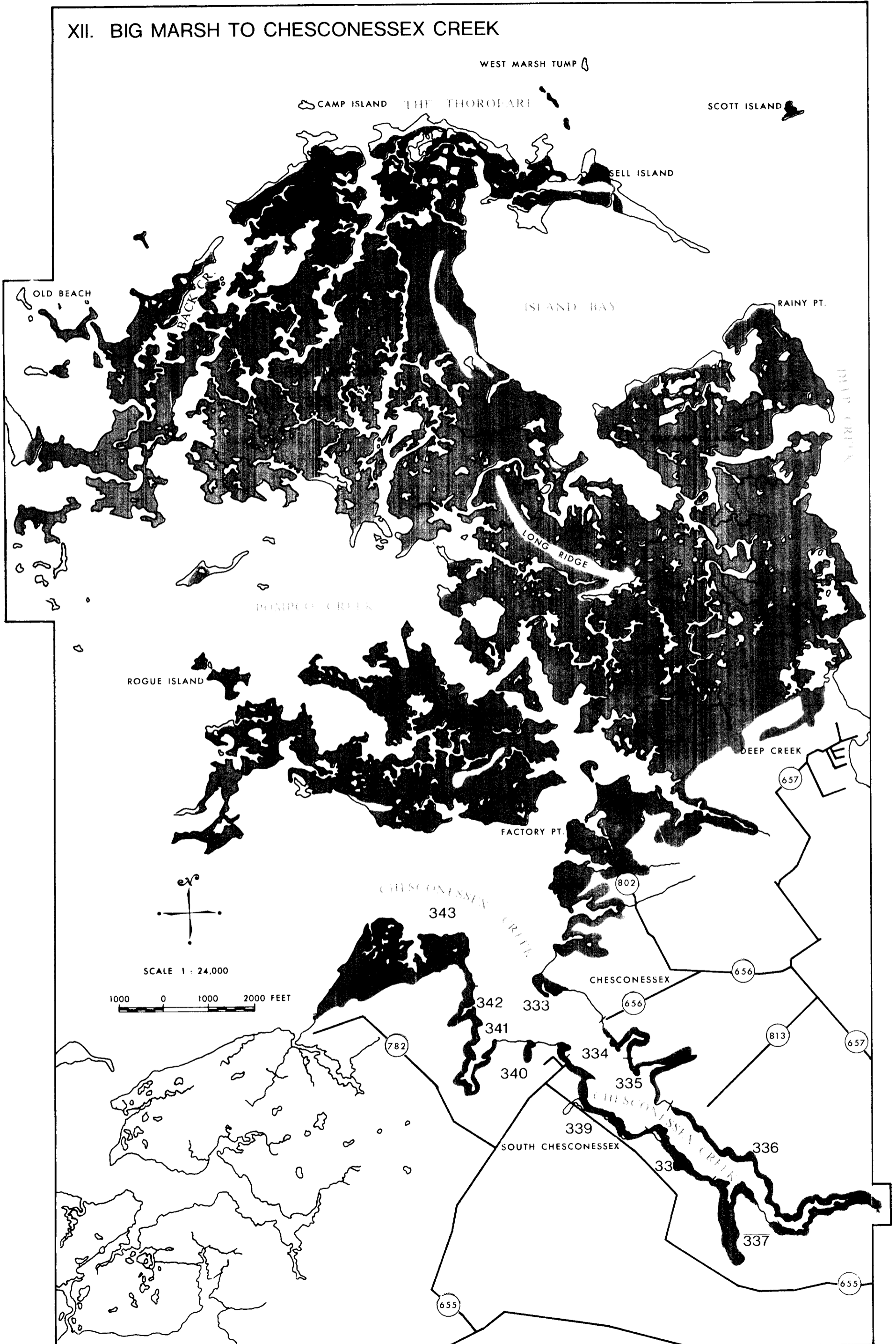
The largest marsh area in this section is the Big Marsh - Savage Island Complex. The marsh is dissected by relatively broad dendritic tidal creeks and guts interspersed randomly with low hummocks that are usually vegetated by saltbushes with a meadow ground cover. The dominant vegetation, however, is Black Needlerush (Type III), with Saltmarsh Cordgrass growing in the intertidal zones of the creeks and guts. The marsh shoreline exposed to Chesapeake Bay is characterized as a beach and berm system. Saltbushes, Marsh Elder and Groundsel Tree typically grow on the summit of the berm. Long Ridge and another crescent-shaped ridge near Island Bay appear to be ancient rims of "Carolina Bays." These ridges usually support small stands of Loblolly Pine, Virginia Cedar, Wax Myrtle with saltbushes growing around the periphery.

Most of the marsh at Factory Point has been destroyed by fill prior to enactment of the Virginia Wetlands Act of 1972. Several dwellings have been constructed on the site.

Tobacco Island Marsh (#330) is similar to Big Marsh vegetatively and is typical of many of the larger marshes on the bay side of Accomack County.

The fringe and pocket marshes of Chesconessex Creek are mainly intertidal and are dominated by tall form Cordgrass. These marshes, although small, are nevertheless important contributors to the estuarine food web.

# XII. BIG MARSH TO CHESCONESSEX CREEK



Section XII Big Marsh to Chesconessex Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
329	Big Marsh - Savage Island	2291.	15	343.65	70	1603.7	10	229.0	5	114.5														Extensive marsh system, dominated by bn.	III
330	Tobacco Island	388.0	15	58.20	75	291.00	8	31.04	2	7.76														Marsh island, dominated by bn.	III
331	Factory Point	-66.0	Tidal Marsh filled by Ellen Development Corporation (Schooner Bay)																						
332	Chesconessex Creek	14.00	20	2.80	20	2.80	30	4.20	30	4.20			-		-									Unit of embayed, creek and pocket marshes.	I
333	Chesconessex Creek	3.00	85	2.55					15	.45														Point and spit marsh.	I
334	Chesconessex Creek	1.40	70	.98					30	.42														Cove marsh, dominated by sc.	I
335	Chesconessex Creek	2.50	90	2.25	5	.13			5	.13														Small intertidal creek marsh.	I
336	Upper Chesconessex Creek	17.00	60	10.20	20	3.40			20	3.40														Fringe and creek marsh system.	I
337	Upper Chesconessex Creek	15.00	80	12.00	10	1.50			10	1.50														Small creek marsh, mainly intertidal with sc.	I
338	Upper Chesconessex Creek	2.00	70	1.40	10	.20			20	.40														Fringe & pocket marsh.	I
339	Chesconessex Creek	2.30	90	2.07					10	.23														Fringe marsh, mainly Sc.	I
340	Chesconessex Creek	.50	80	.40			5	.02	15	.08														Pocket marsh, mainly sc.	I
341	Chesconessex Creek	5.00	40	2.00	30	1.50	10	.50	20	1.00														Cove marsh.	XII
342	Chesconessex Creek	3.00	60	1.80	30	.90			10	.30														Fringe & small creek marsh.	I

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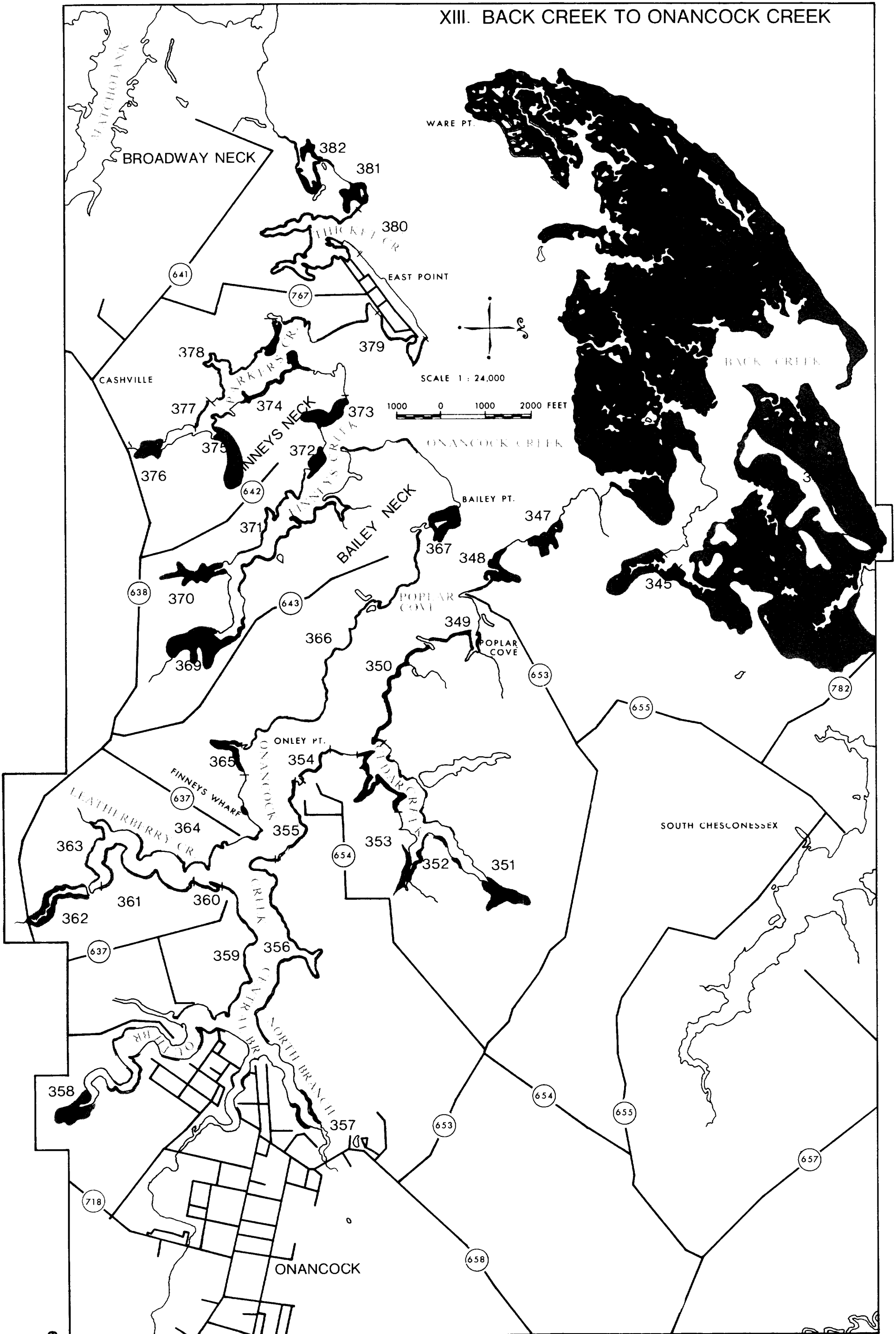


### Section XIII. Back Creek to Onancock Creek

Parkers Marsh (#346) is the largest marsh in this section with 736 acres. It typifies the large peninsular marshes along the Chesapeake Bay shoreline. The dominant marsh community is Black Needlerush (Type III). These dense, uniform colonies grow at elevations slightly above mean high water. Saltmarsh Cordgrass is confined to the intertidal zones of creeks and protected coves. An extensive beach and berm system typifies the Bay shoreline of this marsh. An old beach ridge, Sound Beach, is vegetated mainly by Loblolly Pine with saltbushes around the periphery.

Onancock Creek and its tributaries contain a number of small pocket, fringe and cove marshes. Most of these marshes is dominated by Saltmarsh Cordgrass with a narrow marsh/upland transition zone of saltbushes. These marshes are small but they are important in helping to protect the shoreline from erosion. These marshes, especially the pocket marshes at the upper ends of creek filter upland runoff. Many of pocket marshes originate from accumulative sediment from uplands.

XIII. BACK CREEK TO ONANCOCK CREEK



Section XIII Back Creek to Onancock Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
344	Back Creek	305.0	15	45.74	70	213.50	10	30.50	5	15.25														Extensive marsh, dominated by bn.	III
345	Back Creek	9.00	30	2.70	60	5.40	5	.45	5	.45														Small creek marsh, dominated by bn.	III
346	Parkers Marsh	736.0	10	73.60	80	588.8	5	36.80	5	36.80														Extensive marsh, beach/berm with sb, dominated bn.	III
347	Onancock Creek	5.00	60	3.00	20	1.00	10	.50	10	.50														Pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I
348	Onancock Creek	6.00	50	3.00	10	.60	10	.60	30	1.80														Pocket and fringe marsh.	I
349	Poplar Cove	.68	90	.61					10	.07														Cove marsh, dominated by sc.	I
350	Onancock Creek	2.89	90	2.60	5	.14			5	.14														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
351	Upper Cedar Creek	4.00	70	2.80			10	.40	20	.80														Pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I
352	Cedar Creek	2.50	90	2.25							5	.13	5	.13										Pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I
353	Cedar Creek	1.76	90	1.58	5	.09			5	.09														Cove and fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
354	Onley Point	.92	70	.64					30	.28														Fringe marsh, intertidal sc zone, border of sb.	I
355	Onancock Creek	2.00	50	1.00	20	.40			30	.60														Fringe marsh, sc upland border of sb.	I
356	Onancock Creek	3.35	80	2.68	5	.16			15	.50														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
357	North Branch	.42	60	.25					30	.13			10	.04										Cove marsh, dominated by sc.	I

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sw = Saltwort

swd = Smartweed  
ts = Threesquare  
tt = Tearthumb  
wd = Water Dock

wh = Water Hemp  
wm = Walter's Millet  
wr = Wild Rice  
ypl = Yellow Pond Lily

Section XIII Back Creek to Onancock Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type		
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres					
358	South Branch	2.0	90	1.80					10	.20														Pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I		
359	Onancock Creek	2.30	90	2.07					10	.23														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I		
360	Leatherberry Creek	3.20	60	1.92	20	.64			20	.64														Pocket marsh, sc with colonies of bc, border of sb.	I		
361	Leatherberry Creek	3.00	90	2.70	5	.15			5	.15														Fringe marsh, sc intertidal fringe.	I		
362	Upper Leatherberry Creek	2.50	90	2.25					5	.12			5	.12											Pocket marsh, dominated by sc, sb upland fringe.	I	
363	Leatherberry Creek	.60	80	.48					20	.12															Narrow fringe marsh dominated by sc.	I	
364	Finneys Wharf	.60	90	.54	5	.03			5	.03															Narrow fringe marsh dominated by sc.	I	
365	Onancock Creek	.50	60	.30					20	.10			20	.10												Pocket marsh, sc with sb & ct along upland border.	I
366	Onancock Creek	8.00	85	6.80	5	.40			10	.80															Long fringe marsh, mainly intertidal.	I	
367	Bailey Point	1.50	70	1.05	10	.15			20	.30															Point marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
368	Finneys Creek	1.13	60	.68	20	.23	10	.11	10	.11															Cove and fringe marsh, higher portions indicated by bn,sms,sb	I	
369	Upper Finneys Creek	5.00	30	1.50	20	1.00			50	2.50															Pocket marsh, indicated by sb & bn.	IV	
370	Finneys Creek	2.00	90	1.80	5	.10			5	.10															Pocket marsh, mainly intertidal.	I	
371	Finneys Creek	2.93	65	1.90	30	.88			5	.15															Narrow fringe marsh.	I	

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sw = Saltwort

swd = Smartweed  
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wd = Water Dock

wh = Water Hemp  
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wr = Wild Rice  
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Section XIII Back Creek to Onancock Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
372	Finneys Creek	.75	60	.45	30	.23			10	.08														Embayed marsh, sc in intertidal areas.	I
373	Finneys Creek	1.00	60	.60	30	.30			10	.10														Pocket marsh, colonies of bn.	I
374	Parkers Creek	1.00	70	.70	15	.15			15	.15														Point with fringe marsh.	I
375	Parkers Creek	3.00	40	1.20	50	1.50			10	.30														Pocket marsh.	III
376	Upper Parkers Creek	3.70	85	3.15	5	.19			10	.37														Pocket marsh.	I
377	Parkers Creek	.25	80	.20			5	.01	15	.04												5	.04	Fringe marsh.	I
378	Parkers Creek	3.30	60	1.98	30	.99			10	.33														Fringe marsh.	I
379	East Point	.75	90	.67					5	.04														Fringe marsh.	I
380	Thicket Creek	5.37	70	3.67	20	1.07			10	.54														Cove marsh.	I
381	Thicket Creek	3.90	30	1.17	20	.78	30	1.17	20	.78														Embayed marsh.	XII
382	Broadway Neck	2.50	30	.75	60	1.50	5	.13	5	.13														Point with cove marsh.	III
	Total This Section	1140.3		182.88		820.3		71.17		65.89		.13		.39									.04		

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#### Section XIV. Thicket Point to Pungoteague Creek

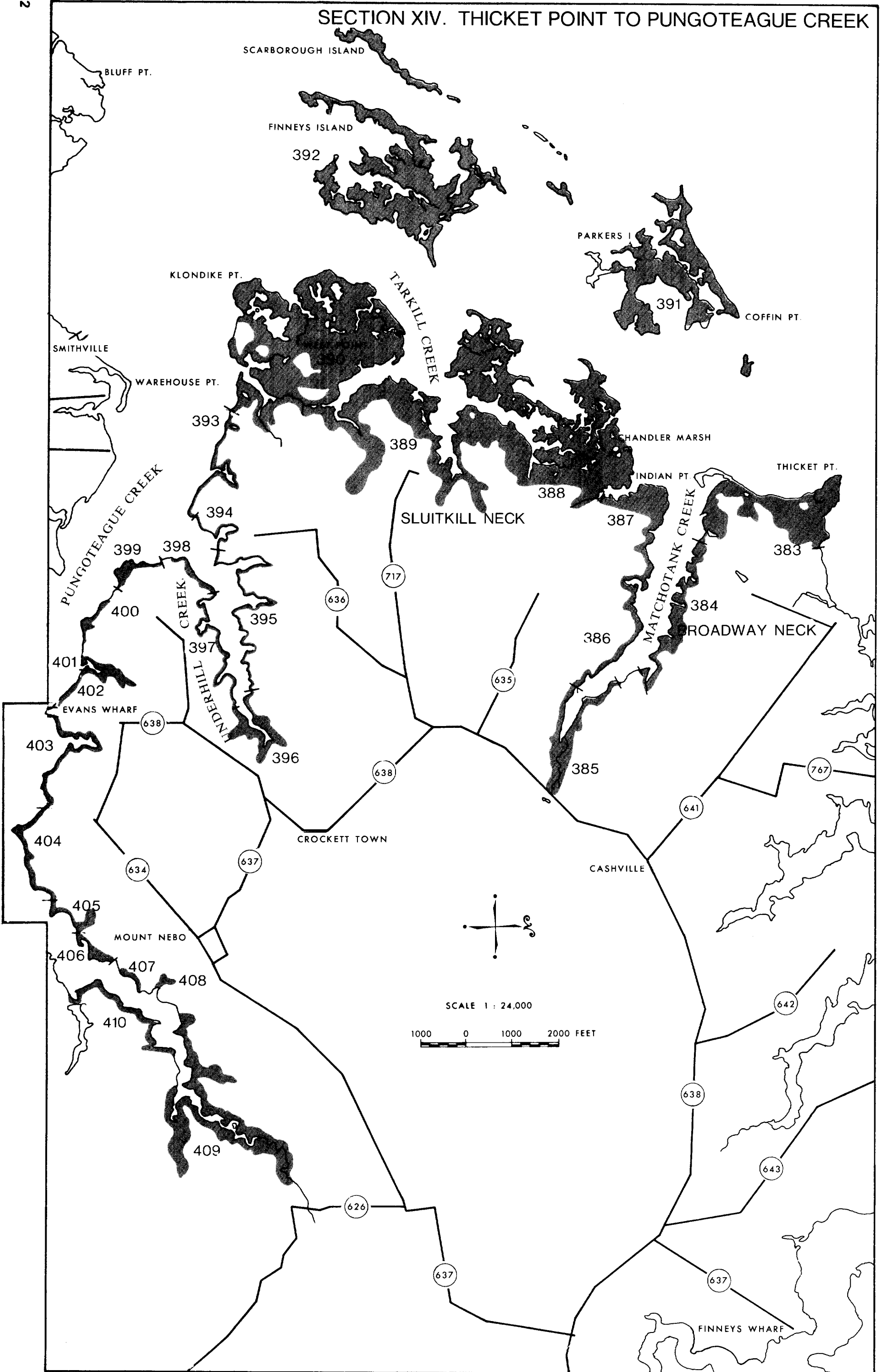
This section includes the marshes of Roadway Neck and Sluitkill Neck, Matchotank Creek, the northern shoreline of Pungoteague Creek, Parkers Island and Finneys Island including Scarborough Island. Of the total marsh acreage in this section (732 acres), 376 acres (51%) are Black Needlerush (Type III) marshes. The largest marshes in this section, West Point Marsh (#389), Chandler Marsh (#388), and Finney-Scarboroughs Island (#392) are dominated by this rush.

Many of the smaller marshes of Pungoteague Creek, in contrast to the larger marshes, are dominated by Saltmarsh Cordgrass. In some of the pocket, marshes, upland sediments accumulate in the marsh, increasing their elevation, thereby allowing high marsh species such as Marsh Elder, Groundsel Tree and Saltmeadow Hay increasing their elevation to flourish.

A small stand of Big Cordgrass, is found in marsh (#409) the upper end of Pungoteague Creek, reflecting a lower salinity level.

The presence of small stands of Cattails and Waterhemp along the upland margin of an otherwise saline marsh, is often indicative of freshwater seepage.

SECTION XIV. THICKET POINT TO PUNGOTEAGUE CREEK



Section XIV Thicket Point to Pungoteague Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
383	Thicket Point	46.0	30	13.80			40	18.40	30	13.80														Extensive marsh with marsh beach and berm.	XII
384	Matchotank Creek	15.00	70	10.50	10	1.50	10	1.50	10	1.50														Broad fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
385	Matchotank Creek	11.00	80	8.80			5	.55	15	1.65												rg	-	Upper creek marsh dominated by sc.	I
386	Matchotank Creek	4.78	85	4.06	10	.48			5	.24														Narrow fringe marsh dominated by sc with clumps of bn.	I
387	Indian Point	15.00	5	.75	85	12.75	5	.75	5	.75														Point marsh, dominated by bn.	III
388	Chandler Marsh	167.0	15	25.05	70	116.90	10	16.70	5	8.35														Extensive marsh, large colonies of bn.	III
389	Tarkill Creek	45.00	10	4.50	70	31.50	10	4.50	10	4.50														Two marsh creek system, dominated by bn.	III
390	West Point	195.0	20	39.00	60	117.00	10	19.50	10	19.50														Extensive marsh large colonies of bn.	III
391	Parkers Island	63.00	35	22.05	35	22.05	20	12.60	10	6.30														Large marsh island, diverse vegetation.	XII
392	Finney-Scarborough Is.	100.0	30	30.00	50	50.00	15	15.00	5	5.00														Marsh island, large colonies of bn.	III
393	Pungoteague Creek	2.41	90	2.17	5	.12			5	.12														Fringe marsh and two cove marshes, mainly intertidal.	I
394	Underhill Creek	.50	90	.45	5	.03			5	.03														Cove marsh with narrow fringe, intertidal.	I
395	Underhill Creek	4.40	60	2.64	25	1.10	7.5	.33	7.5	.33														Long narrow fringe marsh, dominated by sc with colonies of bn.	I
396	Upper Underhill Creek	3.50	80	2.80			10	.35	10	.35														Upper creek marsh, mostly intertidal dominated by sc.	I

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Section XIV Thicket Point to Pungoteague Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
397	Underhill Creek	2.00	80	1.60	10	.20	5	.10	5	.10														Fringe & cove marshes dominated by sc.	I
398	Underhill Creek	.55	70	.39	20	.11	5	.03	5	.03														Narrow, fringe marsh dominated by sc.	I
399	Pungoteague Creek	1.00	60	.60	10	.10	20	.20	10	.10														Narrow, fringe marsh dominated by sc	I
400	Pungoteague Creek	.50	60	.30	5	.03	5	.03	30	.15														Fringe marsh, zone of sc with sb upland border.	I
401	Pungoteague Creek	.50	80	.40	10	.05			10	.05														Pocket marsh, dominated by sc, patches of bn.	I
402	Pungoteague Creek	.36	80	.29	10	.04			10	.04														Small fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
403	Evans Wharf	1.14	80	.91	10	.11			10	.11														Fringe and cove marsh mainly intertidal.	I
404	Pungoteague Creek	1.79	50	.90	40	.72			10	.18														Fringe marsh dominated by sc, with colonies of bn.	I
405	Pungoteague Creek	.75	30	.23	15	.11	10	.08	30	.23			10	.08								rg 5	.04	Fringe & cove marsh, diverse vegetation.	XII
406	Pungoteague Creek	1.50	5	.08	90	1.35			5	.08														Point marsh, large colonies of bn.	III
407	Pungoteague Creek	.25	30	.08	60	.15			10	.03														Fringe marsh, dominated by bn.	III
408	Pungoteague Creek	.50	40	.20	20	.10			20	.10												wh 20	.10	Pocket marsh with diverse vegetation.	XII
409	Pungoteague Creek	48.00	5	2.40	40	19.20	10	4.80	40	19.20	5	2.40												Creek marsh, high marsh with zones of bn & sb.	XII
410	Pungoteague Creek	.60	30	.18	60	.36			10	.06														Narrow fringe marsh, with large colonies of bn.	III

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Section XV. Pungoteague Creek to Hacksneck (Back Creek)

Recorded in this section are the marshes along the southern shore of Pungoteague Creek (Warehouse Prong and Taylor Creeks) and the marshes of Hacks Neck area. The largest marshes in this section, Bluff Point Marsh (260 acres) and Hacks Neck Marsh (400 acres) typify many of the larger marshes on the Bay side, being Black Needlerush, Type III marshes.

Another marsh of significant size exists at the very upper end of Taylor Creek, a tributary of Pungoteague Creek. This marsh (#424) is dominated by Big Cordgrass (Type II). Marsh (#414) at the upper end of Warehouse Prong is also dominated by Big Cordgrass. This tall relative of Saltmarsh Cordgrass often obtains a height of twelve feet or more in low saline areas. Here salinity is reduced by freshwater draining from the uplands. Water Hemp, an important food source for water fowl is found here, randomly scattered throughout. A large Water Hemp plant may produce as much as a quart of seeds. Much of Pungoteague Creek is vegetated by a nearly continuous fringe of marsh, usually dominated by Saltmarsh Cordgrass.



Section XV Pungoteague Creek to Hacks Neck (Back Creek)

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
411	Pungoteague Creek	2.50	20	.50	60	1.50			10	.25			5	.13			5	.13						Broad fringe marsh, dominated by bn.	III
412	Ware House Creek	2.00	40	.80	50	1.00	5	.10	5	.10													Narrow fringe marsh, dominated by a zone of bn.	III	
413	Ware House Creek	.50	70	.35	20	.10			10	.05													Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
414	Ware House Creek	23.00	5	1.15	10	2.30			15	3.45	70	16.10											Upper creek marsh, large stand of big cordgrass.	V	
415	Ware House Creek	1.83	80	1.47	5	.09			10	.18	5	.09											Fringe with pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
416	Ware House Creek	3.00	30	.90	10	.30	5	.15	50	1.50	2	.06									wh 3	.09	Pocket marsh, mainly high marsh with sb.	IV	
417	Ware House Creek	1.43	60	.86	30	.43			10	.15													Narrow fringe marsh, intertidal fringe of sc, colonies of bn.	I	
418	Boggs Wharf	1.50	50	.75	20	.30			30	.45													Fringe and small pocket marsh, sb upland border.	I	
419	Boggs Wharf	2.00	60	1.20	20	.40			20	.40													Fringe marsh, sc with colonies of bn.	I	
420	Taylor Creek	3.00	40	1.20	40	1.20			20	.60													Cove and fringe marsh sb fringe along upland border.	XII	
421	Yacht Club	2.00	60	1.20	30	.60			10	.20													Fringe and cove marsh, intertidal zone of sc.	I	
422	Taylor Creek	.75	40	.30	30	.22	10	.08	20	.15													Narrow fringe and cove marsh, zones of sc, bn, sms & sb.	XII	
423	Taylor Creek	.82	5	.04	80	.65	10	.08	5	.04													Point and fringe marsh, bn zone dominating.	III	
424	Upper Taylor Creek	31.00	10	3.10	5	1.55			10	3.10	70	21.70									wh 5	1.55	Creek marsh, bc dominating.	V	

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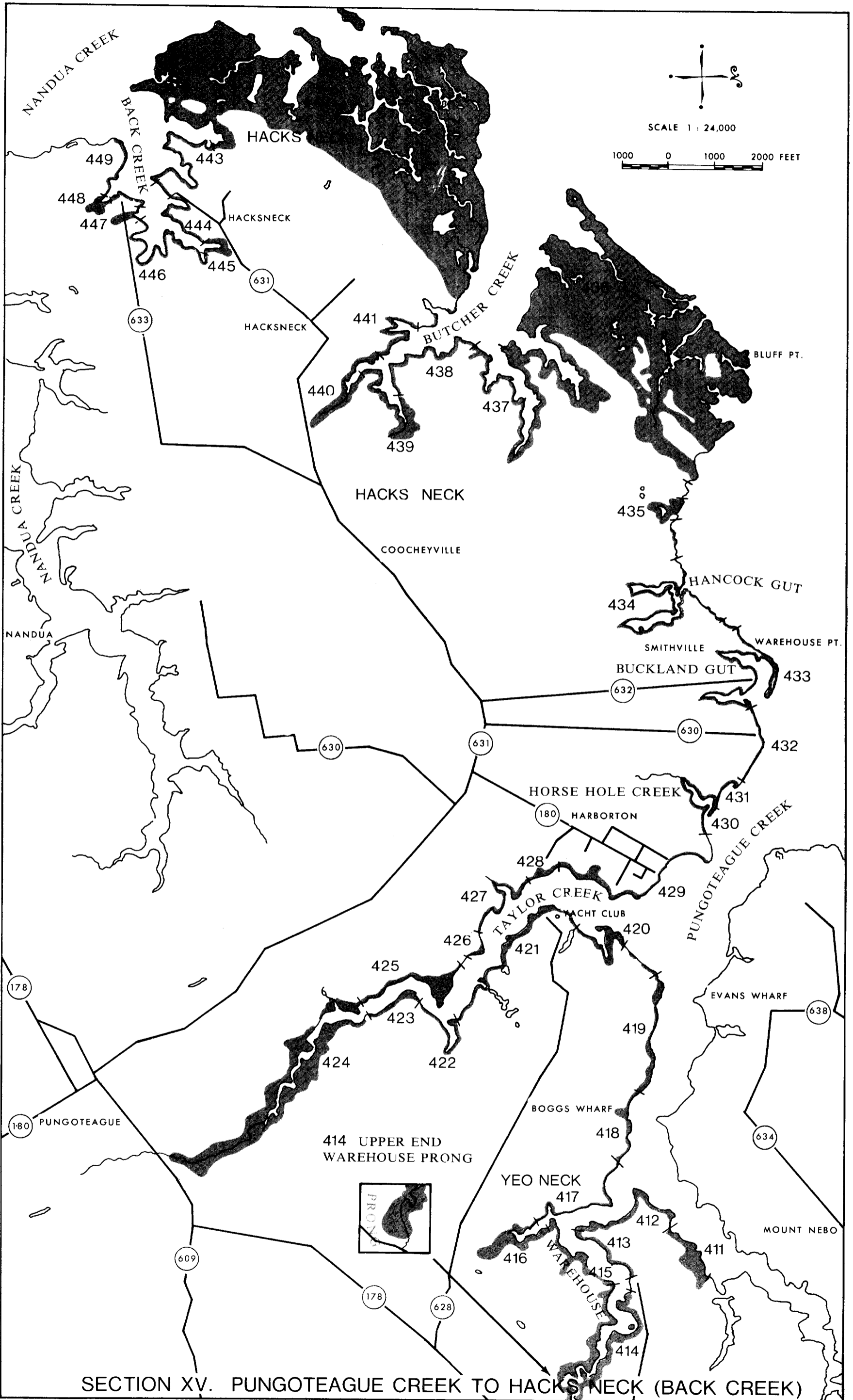
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SECTION XV. PUNGOTEAGUE CREEK TO HACKS NECK (BACK CREEK)

Section XV Pungpteague Creek to Hacks Neck (Back Creek)

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other		Observations	Marsh Type	
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
439	Butcher Creek	4.00	50	2.00			10	.40	40	1.60															Pocket marsh, dominated sc with broad sb border.	I	
440	Butcher Creek	7.00	70	4.90	10	.70	5	.35	15	1.05															Pocket marsh, dominated by sc, patches of bn.	I	
441	Butcher Creek	.50	20	.10	60	.30	5	.02	15	.08															Fringe and cove marsh large colonies of bn.	III	
442	Hacks Neck	400	20	80.00	70	280.0	5	20.00	5	20.00															Extensive marsh with beach and berm, dominated by bn.	III	
443	Back Creek	1.56	90	1.41					10	.15															Fringe/cove marsh mainly intertidal.	I	
444	Back Creek	.27	90	.25					10	.02															Narrow fringe marsh dominated by sc.	I	
445	Back Creek	.75	90	.68	10	.08																			Pocket marsh dominated by sc.	I	
446	Back Creek	1.00	85	.85	5	.05	5	.05	5	.05															Continuous narrow fringe marsh, mainly intertidal.	I	
447	Back Creek	1.00	30	.30			40	.40	30	.30															Pocket marsh, mainly high marsh with sms & sb.	XII	
448	Back Creek	.50	10	.05			60	.30	30	.15															Pocket marsh, meadow marsh dominated by sms.	II	
449	Back Creek	1.20	50	.60			30	.36	20	.24															Fringe marsh with upland border of sms & sb.	I	
	Total This Section	792.45		166.00		486.41		41.68		58.06				.13				.13									

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bc = Big Cordgrass  
bn = Black Needlerush

bt = Beggar's-ticks  
ct = Cattails  
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mh = Marsh Hibiscus

mm = Marsh Mallow  
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sg = Switch Grass  
sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass  
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swd = Smartweed  
ts = Threesquare  
tt = Tearthumb  
wd = Water Dock

wh = Water Hemp  
wm = Walter's Millet  
wr = Wild Rice  
ypl = Yellow Pond Lily

Section XV Pungoteague Creek to Hacks Neck (Back Creek)

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type	
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres				
425	Taylor Creek	3.00	10	.30	70	2.10	5	.15	15	.45														Fringe & point marsh, large colonies of bn.	III	
426	Taylor Creek	.50	20	.10	75	.37			5	.05														Point marsh, dominated by bn.	III	
427	Taylor Creek	.75	75	.56	10	.08	5	.04	10	.08														Fringe and cove marsh, intertidal dominated by sc.	I	
428	Taylor Creek	.25	80	.20	5	.01	5	.01	10	.03														Pocket & fringe marsh dominated by sc.	I	
429	Taylor Creek	1.92	80	1.53	10	.19			10	.19														Fringe marsh, dominated sc.	I	
430	Horse Hole Creek	.50	90	.45					10	.05															Cove marsh, dominated by sc.	I
431	Horse Hole Creek	.50	85	.42	5	.03			10	.05															Cove marsh, dominated by sc.	I
432	Pungoteague Creek	.80	90	.72					10	.08															Narrow fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
433	Buckland Gut	5.92	85	5.03			5	.29	10	.59															Cove and fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
434	Hancock Gut	11.76	90	10.59	5	.59			5	.59															Cove and fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
435	Pungoteague Creek	2.00	50	1.00	30	.60	10	.20	10	.20															Pocket marsh mainly sc, patches of bn.	I
436	Bluff Point	260.0	15	39.00	70	182.00	7	18.20	8	20.80															Extensive marsh, large colonies of bn.	III
437	Butcher Creek	9.84	5	.50	80	7.87	5	.50	5	.50												sg 5	.50		Cove marsh, large bn zone.	III
438	Butcher Creek	1.60	40	.64	50	.80			10	.16															Fringe marsh, large bn zone.	III

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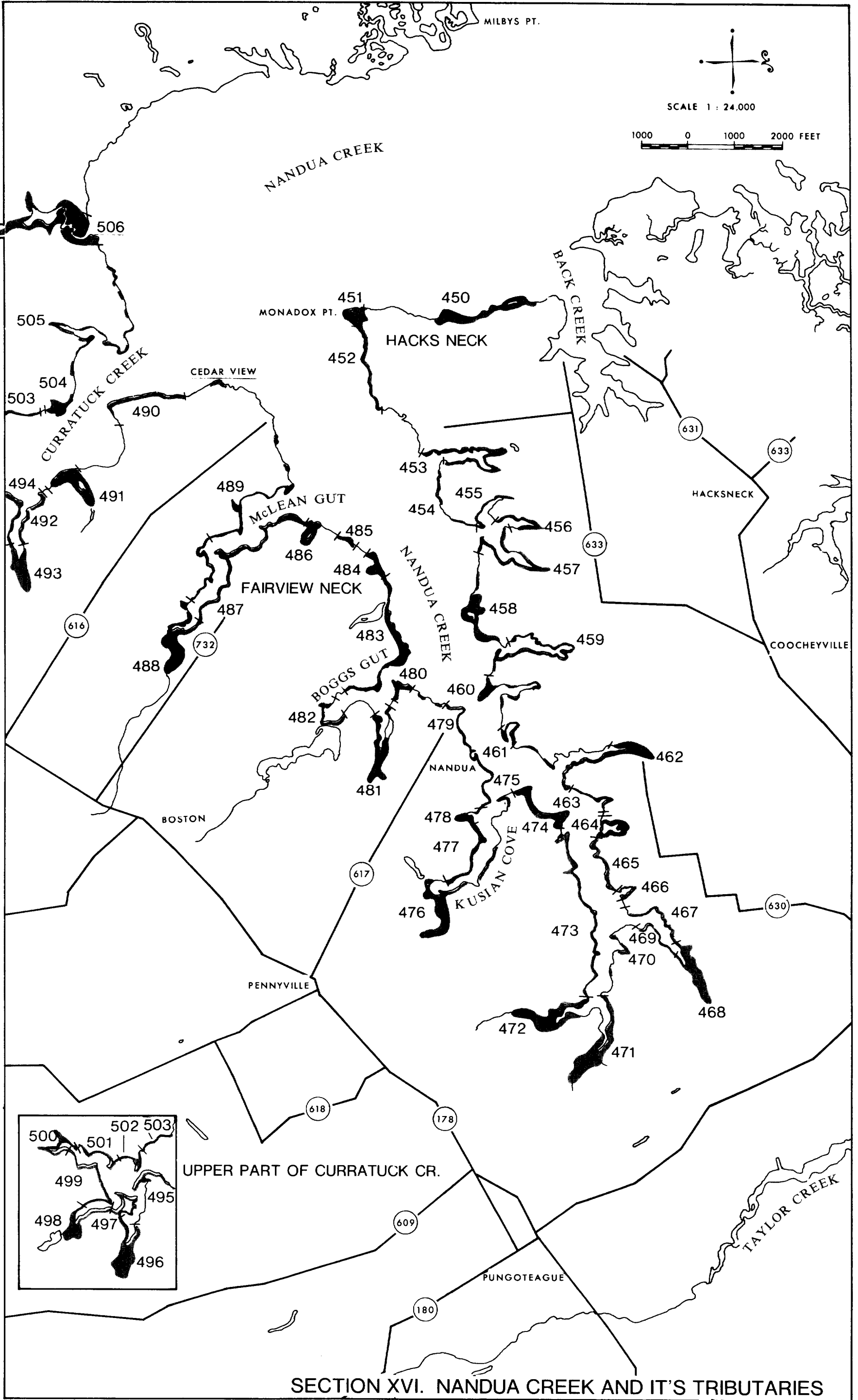
bt = Beggar's-ticks  
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sw = Saltwort

swd = Smartweed  
ts = Threesquare  
tt = Tearthumb  
wd = Water Dock

wh = Water Hemp  
wm = Walter's Millet  
wr = Wild Rice  
ypl = Yellow Pond Lily



SECTION XVI. NANDUA CREEK AND IT'S TRIBUTARIES

#### Section XVI. Nandua Creek and it's Tributaries

Although there are a large number of marshes in Nandua Creek and Curratuck Creek, they are small fringe, pocket, spit, cove and point marshes ranging in size from only .25 to 5.0 acres. Despite their small size however, they contribute to the ecological well being of the creeks. Marshes deter shoreline erosion, filter out upland sediment, assimilate excessive nutrients orginating from croplands and septic systems, contribute organic material to the estuarine food web and provide cover and food for wildlife. A VIMS study has shown that an estimated 20,000 young spot utilized a small cove marsh during just one tidal cycle.

Most of the marshes of this tidal creek system are Type I Saltmarsh Cordgrass communities, with saltbushes and often Saltmeadow Hay as under-cover, along the upland border.

Section XVI Nandua Creek and its Tributaries

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
464	Nandua Creek	.25	50	.13	40	.10			10	.03														Cove marsh, patches of bn.	I
465	Nandua Creek	.50	50	.25	30	.15	10	.05	10	.05														Fringe marsh, patches of bn.	I
466	Nandua Creek	.25	60	.15			10	.03	30	.08														Cove marsh, dominated by sc with sb border.	I
467	Nandua Creek	1.07	50	.54	15	.16	5	.05	30	.32														Narrow fringe marsh, broad sb border.	I
468	Nandua Creek	2.00	80	1.60			10	.20	10	.20														Pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I
469	Nandua Creek	1.44	90	1.30					10	.14														Broad fringe marsh intertidal.	I
470	Nandua Creek	.25	90	.23					10	.03														Small pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I
471	Nandua Creek	4.00	80	3.20	5	.20	5	.20	10	.40														Pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I
472	Nandua Creek	4.00	60	2.40	30	1.20	5	.20	5	.20														Pocket marsh, dominated by sc with colonies of bn.	I
473	Nandua Creek	3.34	70	2.34	10	.33	5	.17	15	.50														Long fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
474	Nandua Creek	1.65	60	.99	30	.50	5	.08	5	.08														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc with patches of bn.	I
475	Kusian Creek	.25	70	.18	15	.04			15	.04														Small spit marsh, dominated by sc.	I
476	Kusian Creek	3.80	50	1.90	30	1.14	10	.38	10	.38														Pocket marsh, sc along creeks.	I
477	Kusian Creek	.50	80	.40	5	.03	5	.03	10	.05														Fringe marsh, mostly sc.	I

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sw = Saltwort

swd = Smartweed  
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tt = Tearthumb  
wd = Water Dock

wh = Water Hemp  
wm = Walter's Millet  
wr = Wild Rice  
ypl = Yellow Pond Lily

Section XVI Nandua Creek and its Tributaries

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
450	Nandua Creek	2.0	20	.40			40	.80	40	.80														Fringe marsh, dominated by meadow and salt-bush community.	XII
451	Monadox Point	2.74	80	2.19			10	.27	10	.27														Point marsh, mostly intertidal.	I
452	Nandua Creek	.28	90	.25					10	.03														Narrow discontinuous marsh, dominated by sc.	I
453	Nandua Creek	1.00	90	.90					10	.10														Cove with small pocket marsh, intertidal.	I
454	Nandua Creek	.64	90	.58					10	.06														Narrow fringe marsh dominated by sc.	I
455	Nandua Creek	.33	90	.30					10	.03														Narrow fringe and small pocket marsh dominated by sc.	I
456	Nandua Creek	.33	85	.28	5	.02			10	.03														Cove marsh mostly intertidal.	I
457	Nandua Creek	.50	85	.43	5	.03	5	.03	5	.03														Cove marsh, dominated by sc with zones of sms & sb.	I
458	Nandua Creek	1.50	50	.75	20	.30	10	.15	20	.30														Broad fringe marsh, sc in intertidal zone. Also zones of bn, sms, sb	I
459	Nandua Creek	1.72	80	1.38	5	.09	5	.09	10	.17														Cove marsh, dominated by sc, sb upland border.	I
460	Nandua Creek	1.00	15	.15	75	.75	5	.05	5	.05														Point marsh, dominated by bn.	III
461	Nandua Creek	.68	75	.51	10	.07	5	.04	10	.07														Cove and spit marsh, mainly intertidal.	I
462	Nandua Creek	.50	100	.50																				Pocket & fringe marsh, intertidal.	I
463	Nandua Creek	.25	90	.23	5	.01			5	.01														Narrow fringe marsh, intertidal.	I

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Section XVI Nandua Creek and its Tributaries

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type	
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres				
492	Curratuck Creek	.55	80	.44	10	.06			10	.06														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
493	Curratuck Creek	.75	90	.68	5	.04			5	.04														Pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
494	Curratuck Creek	.73	60	.44	20	.14	10	.07	10	.07														Fringe marsh, mostly sc with patches of bn.	I	
495	Curratuck Creek	1.00	80	.80	10	.10			10	.10														Spit marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
496	Curratuck Creek	3.00	90	2.70			5	.15	5	.15														Pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
497	Curratuck Creek	.75	80	.60	10	.08	8	.06														as 2	.02	Point marsh dominated by sc.	I	
498	Curratuck Creek	1.50	90	1.35					10	.15															Pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I
499	Curratuck Creek	.50	80	.40					20	.10															Fringe marsh, mostly by sc with sb border.	I
500	Curratuck Creek	1.5	80	1.20			5	.08	10	.15			5	.08											Pocket marsh, mostly sc.	I
501	Curratuck Creek	.55	80	.44					20	.11															Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
502	Curratuck Creek	.23	30	.07	5	.01	20	.04	40	.09						5	.01								Spit marsh, sc in intertidal zone.	XII
503	Curratuck Creek	1.28	70	.90	10	.13	10	.13	10	.13															Narrow fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
504	Curratuck Creek	1.50	80	1.20			5	.08	15	.23															Point marsh, dominated by sc.	I
505	Curratuck Creek	.25	90	.22			5	.01	5	.01															Small pocket marsh dominated by sc.	I

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ypl = Yellow Pond Lily

Section XVI Nandua Creek and its Tributaries

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
478	Kusian Creek	.25	60	.15	15	.04	5	.01	20	.05													Small pocket marsh, mainly sc, upland border of sb.	I	
479	Nandua Creek	1.49	80	1.20	5	.07	5	.07	10	.15													Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
480	Boggs Gut	1.00	40	.40	30	.30			30	.30													Point marsh, sc in the intertidal zone.	XII	
481	Boggs Gut	2.00	90	1.80					10	.20													Pocket marsh, mostly intertidal.	I	
482	Boggs Gut	.25	90	.23					5	.01			5	.01										Cove marsh, dominated by sc.	I
483	Boggs Gut & Nandua Creek	3.12	85	2.65			5	.16	10	.31														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
484	Nandua Creek	1.00	80	.80	5	.05	5	.05	10	.10														Pocket marsh, mostly sc with sb border.	I
485	Nandua Creek	.50	90	.45					10	.05														Point marsh, dominated by sc.	I
486	Nandua Creek	1.00	85	.85					15	.15														Pocket marsh, dominated by sc with sb border.	I
487	McLean Gut	2.18	55	1.20	30	.65	5	.11	10	.22														Long fringe marsh, sc with patches of bn.	I
488	McLean Gut	5.00	40	2.00	40	2.00	10	.50	10	.50														Pocket marsh, sc along creeks, colonies of bn.	I
489	McLean Gut	2.08	70	1.46	20	.42			10	.20														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	XII
490	Curratuck Creek	1.00	85	.85	7.5	.08			7.5	.08														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc, sms & sb border.	I
491	Curratuck Creek	2.00	60	1.20	10	.20	10	.20	20	.40														Pocket marsh, mostly sc.	I

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Sections XVII & XVIII. Hyslop Marsh to Occohannock Creek  
(Accomack/Northampton County Line)

Except for two large Chesapeake shoreline marshes, Hyslop Marsh #507 and Scarborough Neck/Powells Point Marsh (#540-541), the wetlands of this section are mainly small individual marshes usually ranging in size from only one quarter to several acres. Most of these small marshes are found in Craddock and Occohannock Creeks. These fringe, cove, pocket, point and spit marshes are dominated mainly by Saltmarsh Cordgrass except for those at the upper end of Occohannock Creek. In this area, the marshes reflect a reduced salinity and in some cases an increased elevation of the marsh surface. The vegetatively diverse marshes (#555, #560, #562, #569, #570, #572) of this area are classified as Brackish Water Mixed Communities (Type XII).

Hyslop Marsh is typical of the large Chesapeake Bay marshes in Accomack County with an extensive beach/berm system along its most exposed shoreline. This type of shoreline is practically devoid of active tidal creek inlets. The dominant vegetation is characteristically large, dense stands of Black Needlerush (Type III).



Section XVII Hyslop Marsh to Occohannock Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
507	Hyslop Marsh	825	10	82.50	75	618.75	10	82.50	5	41.25									5	41.25				Extensive marsh, berm and beach, dominated by bn.	III
508	Back Creek	8	90	7.20					10	.80														Broad fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
509	Craddock Creek	2.06	90	1.85					10	.21														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
510	Craddock Creek	.75	80	.60	10	.08	8	.06											2	.02				Fringe marsh, recent dam, construction.	I
511	Craddock Creek	.50	90	.45			5	.03	5	.03														Fringe marsh, mainly intertidal.	I
512	Craddock Creek	1.50	80	1.20	10	.15			10	.15														Pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I
513	Craddock Creek	2.61	60	1.56	20	.53	10	.26	10	.26														Long, narrow fringe marsh.	I
514	Craddock Creek	.75	90	.68	5	.04			5	.04														Pocket marsh dominated by sc.	I
515	Craddock Creek	.33	80	.26	10	.03			10	.03														Cove marsh, dominated by sc.	I
516	Craddock Creek	.33	85	.28	5	.02	5	.02	5	.02														Cove and fringe marsh.	I
517	Craddock Creek	.33	30	.10	40	.13	10	.10	10	.10												sg 10	.03	Spit marsh, mixed community.	XII
518	Craddock Creek	.25	40	.10			40	.10	20	.05														Pocket marsh, mainly high marsh.	XII
519	Craddock Creek	.50	85	.42	5	.03	5	.03	5	.03														Cove marsh, dominated by sc.	I
520	Craddock Creek	.61	85	.52	5	.03	5	.03	5	.03														Fringe and point marsh, mainly sc.	I

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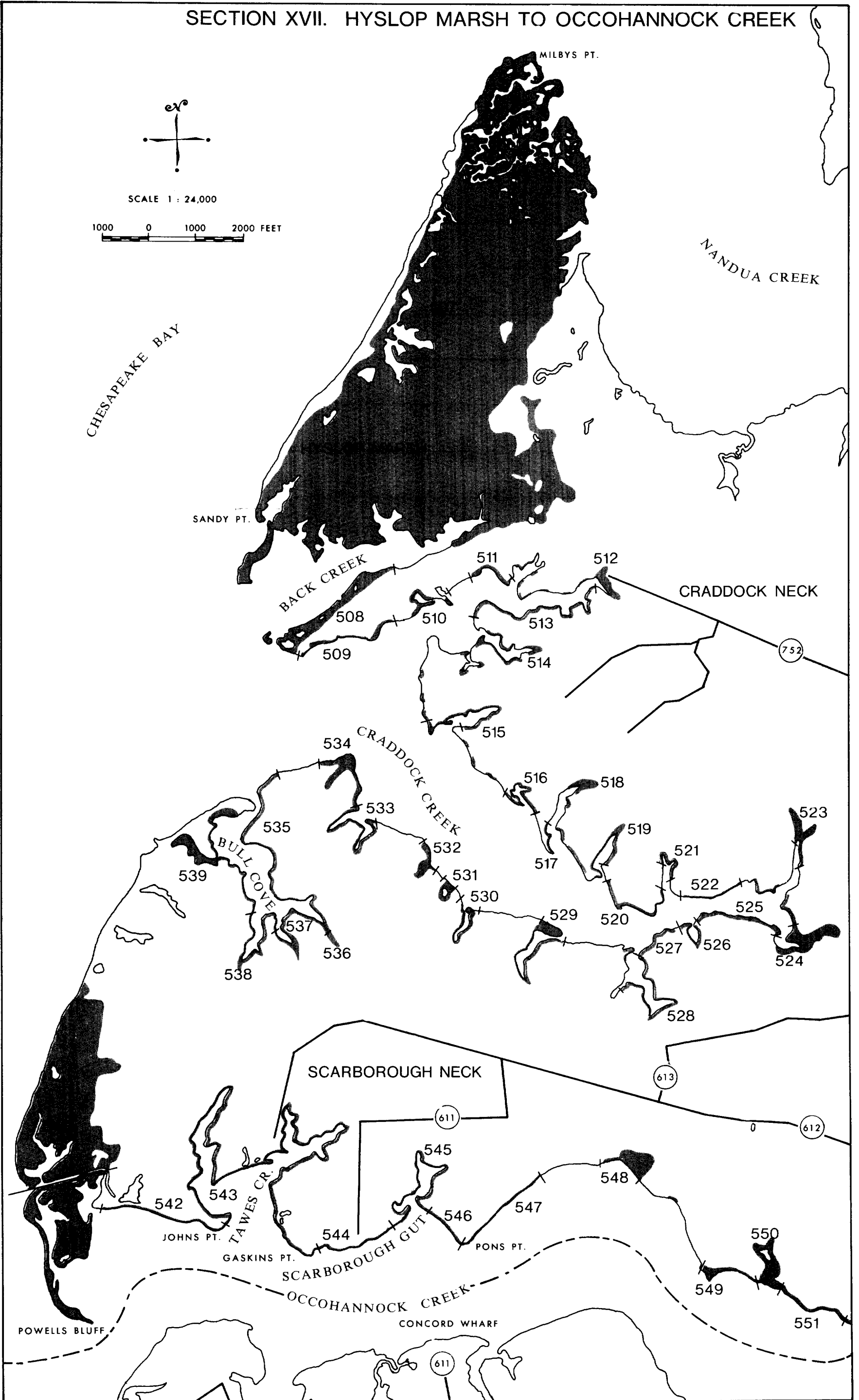
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SECTION XVII. HYSLOP MARSH TO OCCOHANNOCK CREEK



Section XVII Hyslop Marsh to Occohannock Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type	
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres				
535	Bull Cove	2.28	95	2.17	2.5	.06			2.5	.06														Long, fringe marsh, intertidal.	I	
536	Bull Cove	.25	95	.23	2.5	-			2.5	-														Small, pocket marsh	I	
537	Bull Cove	.50	95	.48	2.5	.01			2.5	.01														Fringe and pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
538	Bull Cove	.25	95	.23	2.5	-			2.5	-														Fringe and pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
539	Bull Cove	1.00	95	.95	2.5	.03			2.5	.03														Embayed marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
540	Scarborough Neck	83	50	41.5	10	8.03	30	24.90	10	8.30									-			sg		Extensive marsh, mainly sc with large meadows.	I	
541	Powells Bluff	33	75	24.75			15	4.95	10	3.30									-			sg		Spit marsh separated from 540 by dike and trail.	I	
542	Johns Point	1.03	85	.87					15	.16														Narrow, fringe marsh, mostly intertidal.	I	
543	Tawes Creek	6.61	85	5.62	5	.33	5	.33	5	.33														Long, continuous fringe marsh.	I	
544	Scarborough Gut	.55	90	.50					10	.06															Fringe marsh mainly intertidal.	I
545	Scarborough Gut	2.86	90	2.57	5	.14			5	.14															Cove marsh, dominated by sc.	I
546	Scarborough Gut	.68	90	.61					10	.07															Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
547	Pons Point	.75	90	.68					10	.08															Fringe marsh, dominated by sc, patches of bn.	I
548	Occohannock Creek	3.00	70	2.10	25	.75			5	.15												sg		Pocket marsh, dominated by sms & sb.	I	

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Section XVII Hyslop Marsh to Occohannock Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
521	Craddock Creek	.33	70	.23	20	.07			10	.03														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
522	Upper Craddock Creek	.55	90	.50					10	.06														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
523	Upper Craddock Creek	1.00	50	.50	40	.40	5	.05	5	.05														Pocket and fringe marsh, sc with bn zone.	I
524	Upper Craddock Creek	2.50	50	1.25	40	1.00	5	.13	5	.13														Pocket marsh with colonies of bn.	I
525	Upper Craddock Creek	1.03	85	.88	5	.05			10	.10														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
526	Craddock Creek	.50	90	.45	5	.03			5	.03														Cove marsh, mostly intertidal.	I
527	Craddock Creek	.25	50	.13	30	.08	10	.03	10	.03														Fringe marsh, mostly sc with bn zone.	I
528	Craddock Creek	1.37	90	1.23	5	.07			5	.07														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
529	Craddock Creek	.50	60	.30	20	.10	10	.05	10	.05														Spit and cove marsh, mainly sc.	I
530	Craddock Creek	.25	75	.19	5	.01	10	.03	10	.03														Cove marsh, dominated by sc.	I
531	Craddock Creek	.25	70	.18			15	.04	15	.04														Cove marsh, dominated by sc.	I
532	Craddock Creek	.50	75	.38	5	.03	10	.05	10	.05														Pocket marsh, dominated by sc.	I
533	Craddock Creek	1.79	80	1.43	10	.18			10	.18														Cove marsh, mainly intertidal.	I
534	Craddock Creek	.73	50	.37			20	.15	30	.20														Point marsh, intertidal and high marsh.	I

ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed  
as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster  
bc = Big Cordgrass  
bn = Black Needlerush

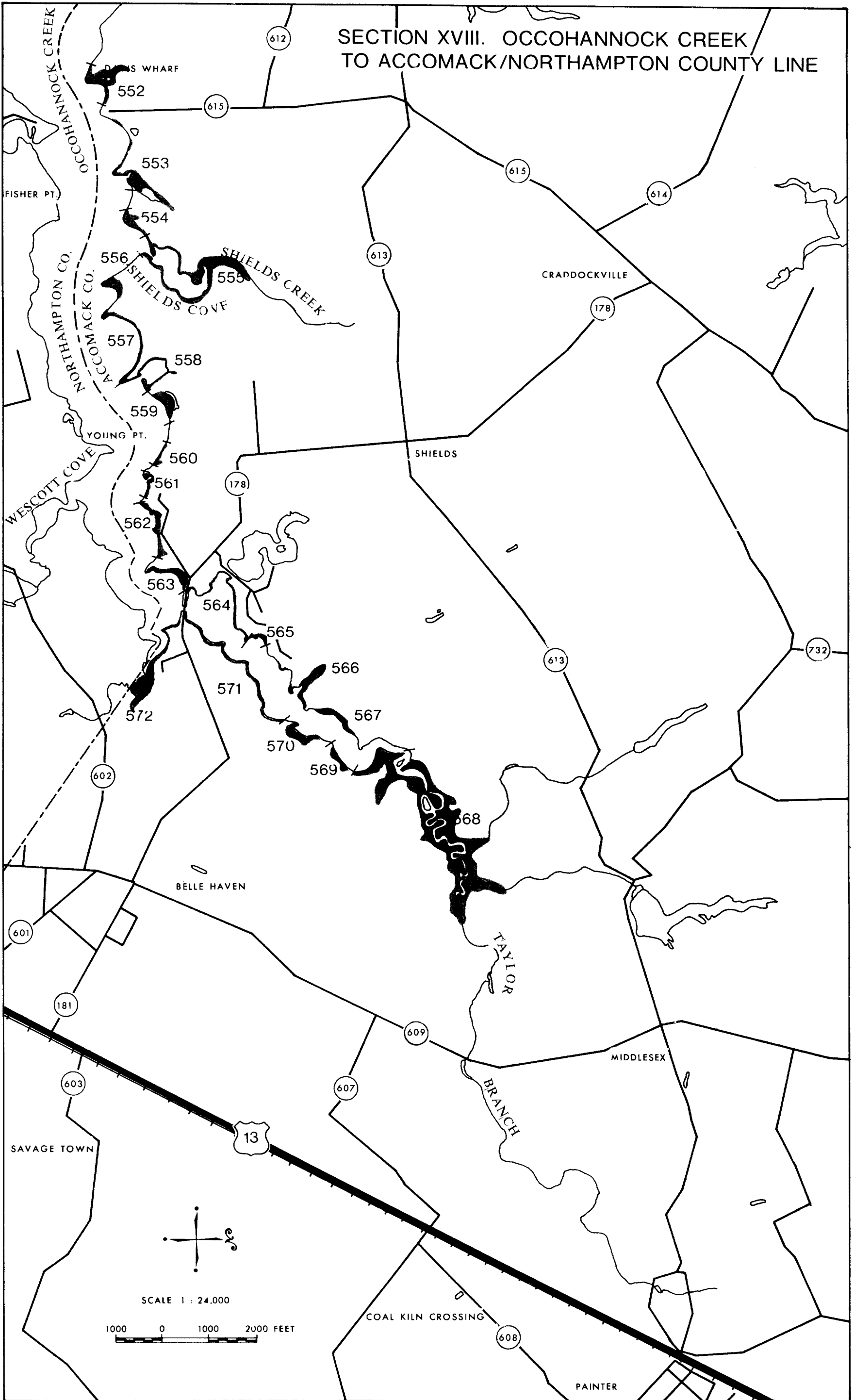
bt = Beggar's-ticks  
ct = Cattails  
mf = Marsh Fleabane  
mh = Marsh Hibiscus

mm = Marsh Mallow  
rg = Reed Grass  
sa = Saltmarsh Aster  
sb = Saltbush  
sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass

sg = Switch Grass  
sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass  
sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush  
sw = Saltwort

swd = Smartweed  
ts = Threesquare  
tt = Tearthumb  
wd = Water Dock

wh = Water Hemp  
wm = Walter's Millet  
wr = Wild Rice  
ypl = Yellow Pond Lily



Section XVII Hyslop Marsh to Occohannock Creek

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type		
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres					
549	Occohannock Creek	2.42	20	.48			40	.97	40	.97														Point and fringe marsh.	XII		
550	Occohannock Creek	6.54	94	6.15	2	.13			2	.13			2	.13											Pocket marsh dominated by sc.	I	
551	Occohannock Creek	2.07	90	1.86					10	.21															Fringe marsh dominated by sc.	I	
	Total This Section	1001.93		197.49		631.56		114.81		58.05				.13						.03							

ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed      bt = Beggar's-ticks      mm = Marsh Mallow      sg = Switch Grass      swd = Smartweed      wh = Water Hemp  
 as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster      ct = Cattails      rg = Reed Grass      sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass      ts = Threesquare      wm = Walter's Millet  
 bc = Big Cordgrass      mf = Marsh Fleabane      sa = Saltmarsh Aster      sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush      tt = Tearthumb      wr = Wild Rice  
 bn = Black Needlerush      mh = Marsh Hibiscus      sb = Saltbush      sw = Saltwort      wd = Water Dock      ypl = Yellow Pond Lily

Section XVIII Occohannock Creek to Accomack/Northampton County Line

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type	
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres				%
566	Upper Occohannock Creek	.50							50	.25	50	.25												Pocket marsh, dredged.	IV	
567	Upper Occohannock Creek	1.00	5	.05	80	.80			5	.05	10	.10												Fringe marsh, dominated by bn.	III	
568	Upper Occohannock Creek	39.00	5	1.95	20	7.80	10	3.90	20	7.80	40	15.60	-						5	1.95				Creek marsh, diverse vegetation.	XII	
569	Upper Occohannock Creek	.50	10	.05	30	.15	10	.05	10	.05	40	.20												Fringe marsh, diverse vegetation.	XII	
570	Upper Occohannock Creek	1.50	10	.15	30	.45	10	.15	20	.30	30	.45												Embayed marsh, diverse vegetation.	XII	
571	Upper Occohannock Creek	1.51	5	.08	20	.30	10	.15	15	.22	50	.75	-											Narrow fringe marsh.	V	
572	Upper Occohannock Creek	2.00	40	.80			10	.20	40	.80			10	.20										Pocket Marsh, brackish	XII	
	Total this Section	60.94		10.73		14.17		5.24		10.8		17.58		.28				.03		2.20						

- |                               |                     |                          |                                 |                  |                        |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed | bt = Beggar's-ticks | mm = Marsh Mallow        | sg = Switch Grass               | swd = Smartweed  | wh = Water Hemp        |
| as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster   | ct = Cattails       | rg = Reed Grass          | sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass | ts = Threesquare | wm = Walter's Millet   |
| bc = Big Cordgrass            | mf = Marsh Fleabane | sa = Saltmarsh Aster     | sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush          | tt = Tearthumb   | wr = Wild Rice         |
| bn = Black Needlerush         | mh = Marsh Hibiscus | sb = Saltbush            | sw = Saltwort                   | wd = Water Dock  | ypl = Yellow Pond Lily |
|                               |                     | sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass |                                 |                  |                        |

Section XVIII Occohannock Creek to Accomack/Northampton County Line

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type	
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres				%
552	Davis Wharf	2.00	90	1.80	5	.10			5	.10														Point and fringe marsh mainly intertidal.	I	
553	Occohannock Creek	2.00	85	1.70	5	.10	5	.10	5	.10														Pocket marsh dominated by sc.	I	
554	Shields Cove	.50	15	.08	70	.35	10	.05	5	.03														Fringe marsh dominated by bn.	III	
555	Shields Cove	4.00	35	1.40	40	1.60	10	.40	10	.40	-							5	.20	-	wh			Cove and pocket marsh diverse vegetation.	XII	
556	Occohannock Creek	.33	60	.20	25	.09	5	.02	10	.03														Pocket marsh dominated by sc, with bn zone.	I	
557	Occohannock Creek	.33	50	.17	30	.10	10	.03	10	.03														Fringe marsh, dominated by sc, with bn zone.	I	
558	Occohannock Creek	1.37	60	.82	25	.34	5	.07	10	.14														Spit and cove marsh, dominated by sc.	I	
559	Occohannock Creek	1.00	15	.15	80	.80			2	.02	1	.01						2	.02						Small embayed marsh, dominated by bn.	III
560	Occohannock Creek	.25	30	.08	40	.10			10	.03			20	.05											Small, fringe marsh, ct along uplands.	XII
561	Occohannock Creek	.25	10	.03	15	.04	15	.04	60	.15															Small cove, marsh, mainly sb.	IV
562	Occohannock Creek	.50	40	.20	40	.20	5	.03	5	.03	5	.03	5	.03				-							Fringe marsh, diverse vegetation.	XII
563	#178 Bridge	1.00	35	.35	50	.50			10	.10	2	.02					3	.03							Spit and fringe marsh, mainly bn.	III
564	#178 Bridge	.90	70	.62	5	.05	5	.05	10	.09	10	.09													Fringe marsh, dominated by sc.	I
565	Upper Occohannock Creek	.50	10	.05	60	.30			15	.08	15	.08													Spit and fringe marsh.	III

ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed  
as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster  
bc = Big Cordgrass  
bn = Black Needlerush

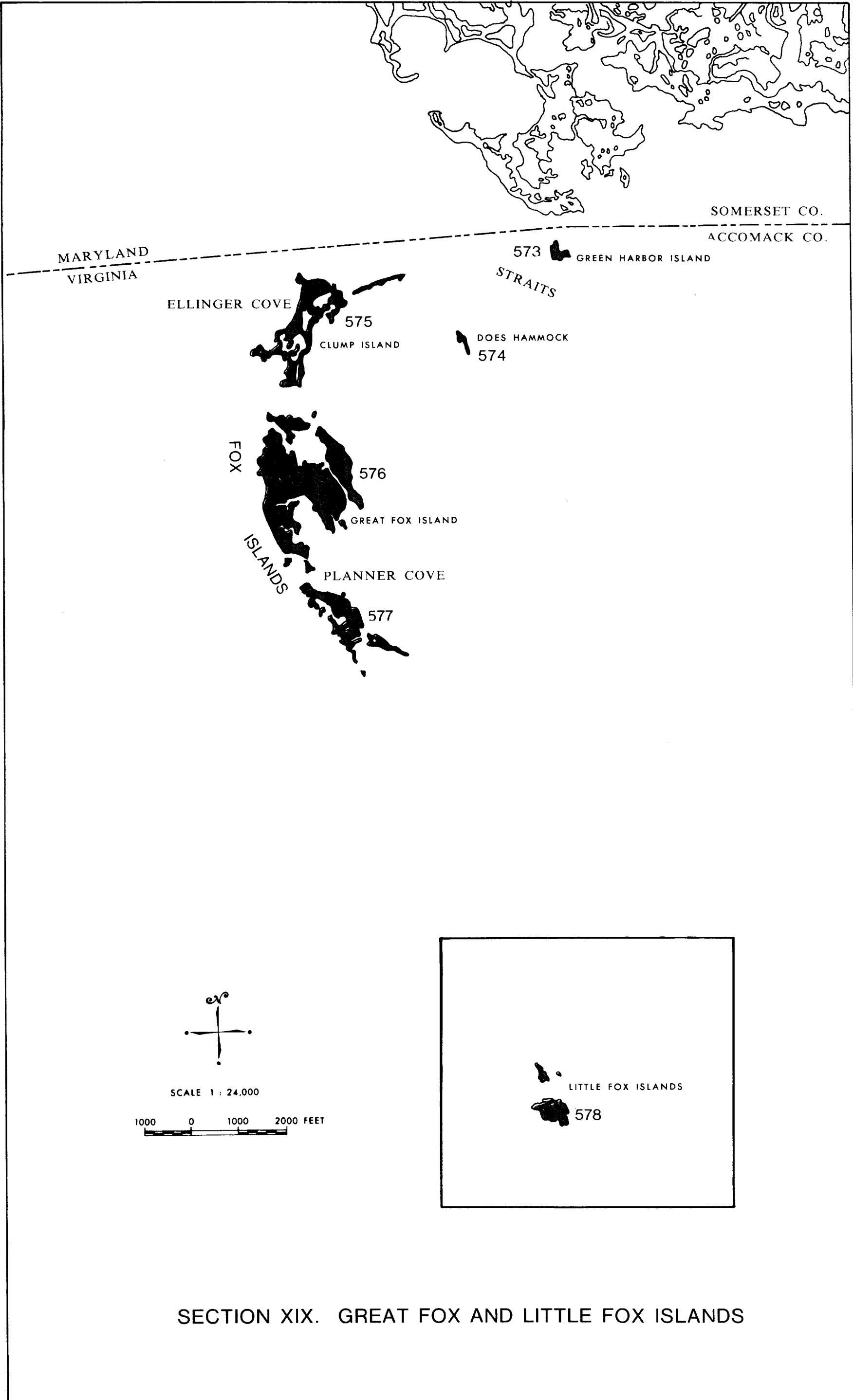
bt = Beggar's-ticks  
ct = Cattails  
mf = Marsh Fleabane  
mh = Marsh Hibiscus

mm = Marsh Mallow  
rg = Reed Grass  
sa = Saltmarsh Aster  
sb = Saltbush  
sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass

sg = Switch Grass  
sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass  
sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush  
sw = Saltwart

swd = Smartweed  
ts = Threesquare  
tt = Tearthumb  
wd = Water Dock

wh = Water Hemp  
wm = Walter's Millet  
wr = Wild Rice  
ypl = Yellow Pond Lily



SECTION XIX. GREAT FOX AND LITTLE FOX ISLANDS

### Sections XIX through XXI. Chesapeake Bay Islands

These three sections include all the Chesapeake Bay marsh islands in Accomack County. Section XIX includes Great Fox, Little Fox and several other small islands. Most of these islands are located just below the Maryland/Virginia border. The marsh vegetation is quite diverse in this island group with four marsh types being represented (Types I, II, III, XII).

Section XX includes Virginia's portion of the Smith Island Complex. The dominant marsh plant community, over all, is Black Needlerush (Type III) with 589 acres or 60% of the total vegetation. Two islands, Cheeseman Island and Shanks Island, are almost entirely Saltmarsh Cordgrass (Type I).

Section XXI contains the Tangier Island Group and Watts Island. The largest island of this complex, North Tangier Island (#590) is dominated by Black Needlerush. Many areas along the southeastern end of this island are dredged spoil sites. In the past, uncontained spoil was placed here during channel maintenance dredging operations. A large area of East Point Marsh (#591) contains a diked spoil site that was originally tidal marsh according to early aerial photographs.

South Tangier Island (#592), has 338.3 acres of tidal marsh. The tidal creeks between the ridges are vegetated by large stands of tall form Saltmarsh Cordgrass. Black Needlerush is common in the marsh area between the western shore and the airport and also at the southern end of one island. A large meadow is found east of Canton Creek. Saltmeadow Hay communities are also found at the southern end of the island. Many of the parts of this marsh have been periodically burned.

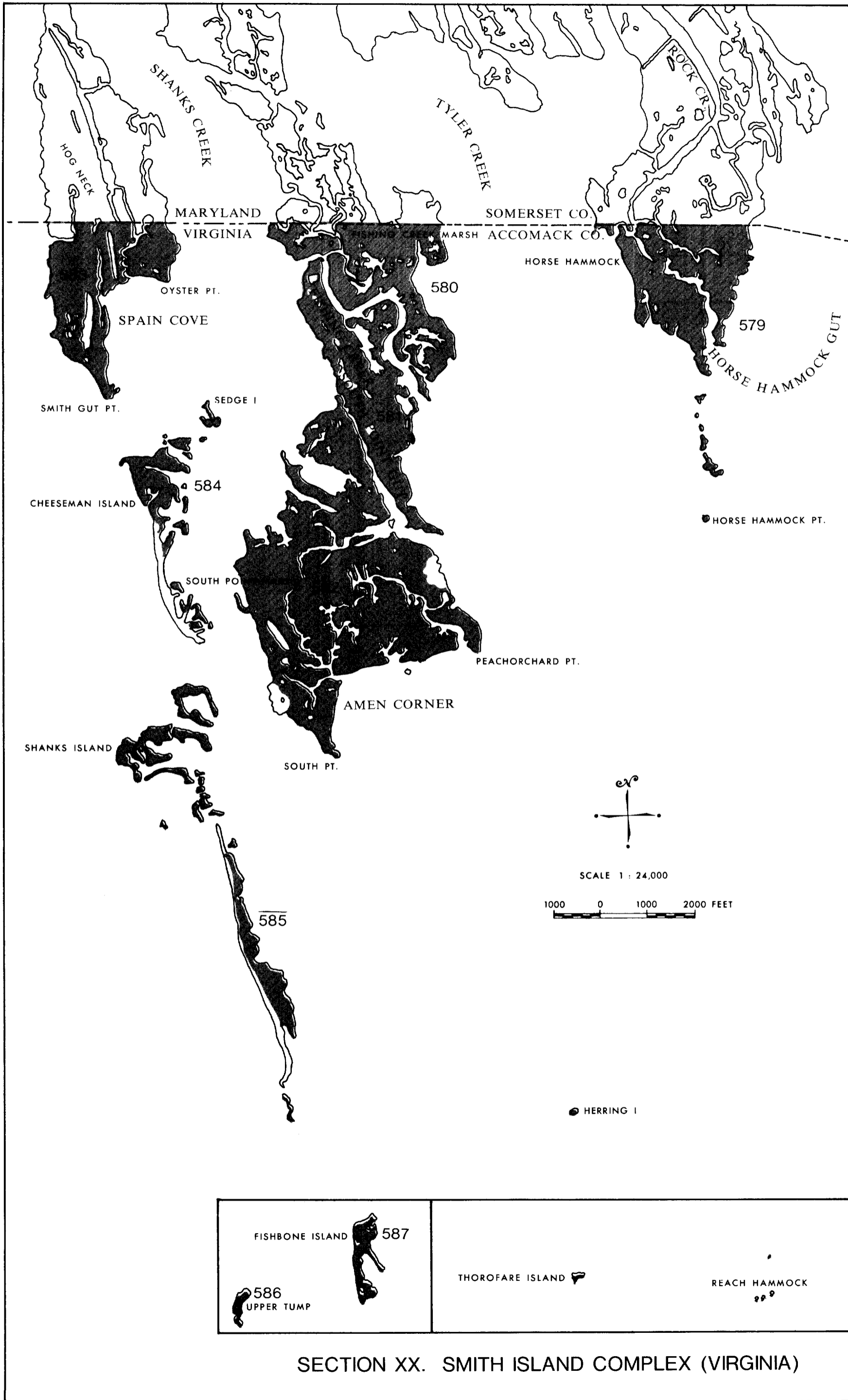
The western shoreline of South Tangier Island has suffered severe erosion over the years. The broken line represents the shoreline recorded on the most recent U.S.G.S. topographic map (1968) which indicates a substantial loss of wetlands in the seven years from 1968 to 1975 when the inventory field work was completed.

In late summer of 1977, a large portion of the narrow marsh area between the air strip and West Ridge on South Tangier Island was altered by contained spoil. The authors have not been able to assess the impact of this project therefore it is not recorded in this report.

Section XIX Great Fox and Little Fox Islands

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type	
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres				
573	Green Harbor Island	1.50	10	.15			70	1.05	-		20	.30												Marsh tump, mainly meadow.	II	
574	Does Hammock	.50	60	.30			30	.15	10	.05										-				Marsh tump, dominated by sc.	I	
575	Clump Island	33.00	40	13.20	30	9.90	20	6.60	10	3.30														Marsh islands, diverse vegetation.	XII	
576	Great Fox Island	60.00	20	12.00	65	39.00	10	6.00	5	3.00														Marsh islands, dominated by bn.	III	
577	Great Fox Island	10.00	50	5.00			40	4.00	10	1.00														Marsh islands, mainly sc & sms.	I	
578	Little Fox Island	4.00	50	2.00			30	1.20	20	.80														Marsh tumps, mainly intertidal.	I	
	Total this Section	109		32.65		48.9		19.0		8.15		.30														

ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed      bt = Beggar's-ticks      mm = Marsh Mallow      sg = Switch Grass      swd = Smartweed      wh = Water Hemp  
 as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster      ct = Cattails      rg = Reed Grass      sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass      ts = Threesquare      wm = Walter's Millet  
 bc = Big Cordgrass      mf = Marsh Fleabane      sa = Saltmarsh Aster      sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush      tt = Tearthumb      wr = Wild Rice  
 bn = Black Needlerush      mh = Marsh Hibiscus      sb = Saltbush      sw = Saltwort      wd = Water Dock      ypl = Yellow Pond Lily



SECTION XX. SMITH ISLAND COMPLEX (VIRGINIA)

Section XX Smith Island Complex (Virginia)

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres			
579	Horse Hammock	128.0	20	25.60	60	76.80	20	25.60	-															Marsh island, mainly bn.	III
580	Fishing Creek Marsh	132.5	15	19.88	70	92.75	15	19.88	-															Marsh island, dominated by bn.	III
581	South Point Gut	120.2	15	18.03	70	84.14	15	18.03	-															Marsh island, dominated by bn.	III
582	South Point Marsh	391.0	10	39.10	70	273.70	15	58.65	5	19.55														Marsh island, dominated by bn.	III
583	Hog Neck	122.0	10	12.20	45	54.9	45	54.9	-															Marsh island, mainly meadow and saltbush.	XII
584	Cheeseman Island	32.00	90	28.80	10	3.20																		Marsh islands, dominated by sc.	I
585	Shanks Island Chain	46.50	90	41.85			5	2.33	5	2.33														Marsh islands, intertidal.	I
586	Upper Tump	2.00	10	.20	15	.30	60	1.20	15	.30														Marsh tump, mainly meadow.	II
587	Fishbone Island	8.00	15	1.20	40	3.20	40	3.20	5	.40														Marsh tump, mainly sms & bn.	XII
	Total this Section	982.2		186.8		588.9		183.7		22.58															

ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed  
as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster  
bc = Big Cordgrass  
bn = Black Needlerush

bt = Beggar's-ticks  
ct = Cattails  
mf = Marsh Fleabane  
mh = Marsh Hibiscus

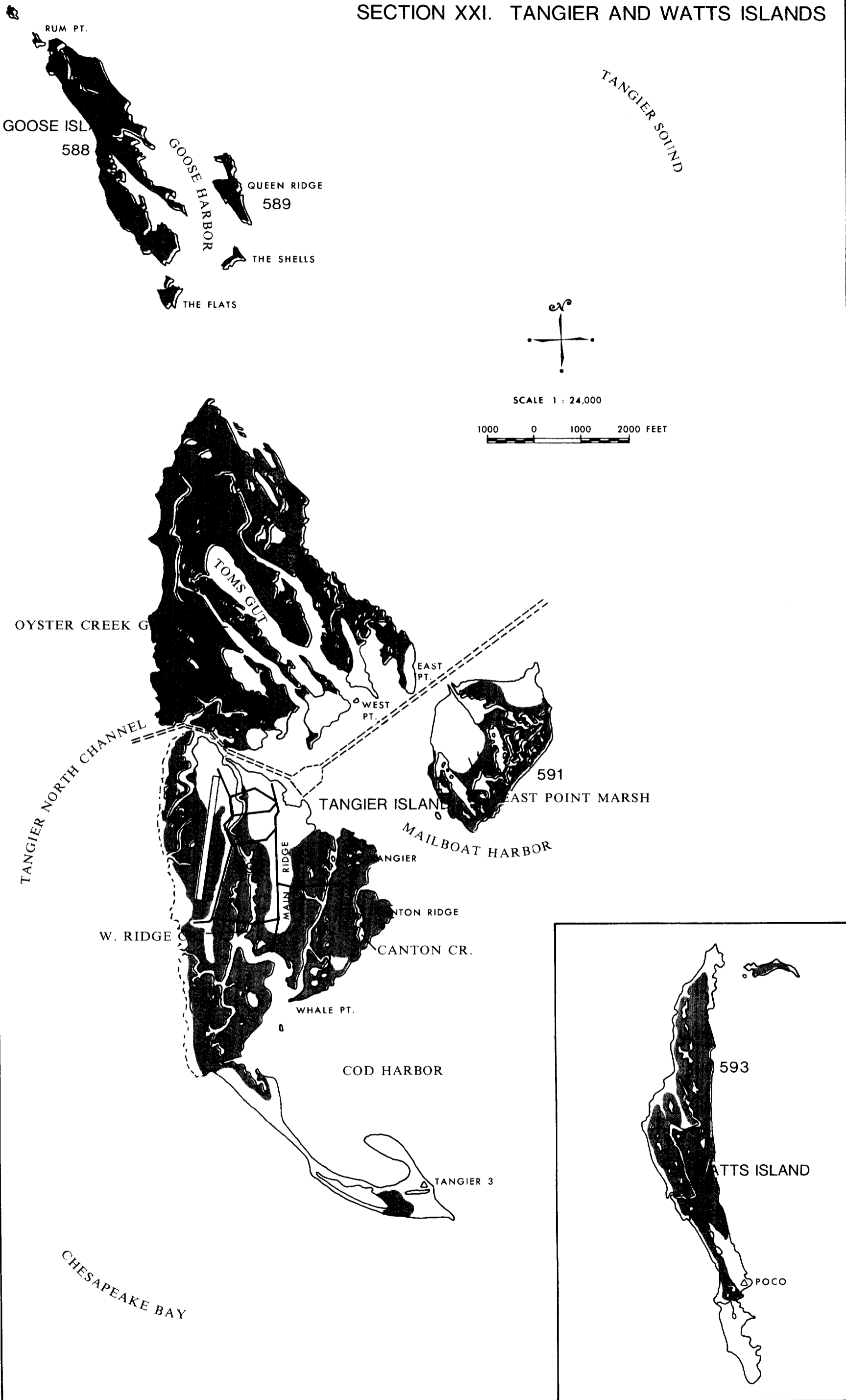
mm = Marsh Mallow  
rg = Reed Grass  
sa = Saltmarsh Aster  
sb = Saltbush  
sc = Saltmarsh Cordgrass

sg = Switch Grass  
sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass  
sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush  
sw = Saltwort

swd = Smartweed  
ts = Threesquare  
tt = Tearthumb  
wd = Water Dock

wn = Water Hemp  
wm = Walter's Millet  
wr = Wild Rice  
ypl = Yellow Pond Lily

SECTION XXI. TANGIER AND WATTS ISLANDS



Section XXI Tangier Island & Watts Island

#	Marsh Location	acres	sc		bn		sms		sb		bc		ct		ts		sr		sa		Other		Other	Observations	Marsh Type	
			%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres	%	acres				
588	Goose Island	93	10	9.30	70	65.10	15	13.95	5	4.65														Marsh island dominated by bn.	III	
589	Queen Ridge	9.2	20	1.84	30	2.76	40	3.68	10	.92														Marsh island mainly high marsh vegetation.	XII	
590	Tangier Island	405.1	20	81.02	60	245.06	10	40.51	10	40.51														Extensive marsh island spoil along channel.	III	
591	East Point Marsh	79.5	30	23.85	25	19.88	33	26.24	10	7.95												rg 2	1.59	Marsh island with massive spoil area.	XII	
592	Tangier Island	338.3	50	169.1	25	84.58	15	50.75	5	16.92									5	16.92				Extensive marsh island spoil & solid waste.	I	
593	Watts Island	87.5	50	43.75	20	1.75	20	17.5	10	8.75														Marsh island dominated by sc.	I	
	Total for this section.	1012.		328.9		432.88		152.63		79.7										16.92			1.59			
	Total Chesapeake Bay Side, Accomack County	23918.		4161.6		114218		29570		2110.0		2013.3		200.1		328.7		608.9		19.1		43.8		54.2		

ap = Arrow Arum-Pickerel Weed      bt = Beggar's-ticks      mm = Marsh Mallow      sg = Switch Grass      swd = Smartweed      wh = Water Hemp  
 as = Annual Saltmarsh Aster      ct = Cattails      rg = Reed Grass      sms = Saltmeadow Hay-Salt Grass      ts = Threesquare      wm = Walter's Millet  
 bc = Big Cordgrass      mf = Marsh Fleabane      sa = Saltmarsh Aster      sr = Saltmarsh Bulrush      tt = Tearthumb      wr = Wild Rice  
 bn = Black Needlerush      mh = Marsh Hibiscus      sb = Saltbush      sw = Saltwort      wd = Water Dock      ypl = Yellow Pond Lily

## GRAND TOTAL OF MARSHES AND SUMMARY OF MAJOR MARSH COMMUNITIES OF ACCOMACK COUNTY

Acres	Grand Total	Saltmarsh Cordgrass	Black Needlerush	Saltmeadow Hay-saltgrass	Saltbushes	Saltwort	Big Cordgrass	Saltmarsh Bulrush	Threesquares	Cattails	Others
	70,370.17	44,761.6	11,483.47	5,264.4	3,089.0	2,077.3	2,027.0	609.0	328.7	289.7	440.0

Saltmarsh Cordgrass Community

Dominates the marsh on the ocean side, usually short form. Occupies intertidal areas of bayside marshes.

Black Needlerush Community

Only occasional patches on the ocean side. Dominates many of the marshes on the bay side.

Saltmeadow Hay-Saltgrass Community

This community forms large meadows in the bay side marshes and on Parramore Island on the ocean side.

Saltbush Community

Marsh Elder and Groundsel Tree make up the shrub community. Characteristic of the marsh/upland transition zone.

Saltwort Community

Commonly found in sandy areas of ocean side marshes. Often associated with short form Saltmarsh Cordgrass.

Big Cordgrass Community

Common in bay side tidal marsh creeks.

Saltmarsh Bulrush

Most common in the marshes along the Pocomoke River and in Freeschool Marsh.

Threesquares

Most common in the marshes along the Pocomoke River and in Freeschool Marsh.

Cattails

Common in creeks along the Pocomoke River. Also found along the marsh/upland border where there is upland seepage.

Others

Includes the following Arrow Arum-Pickerelweed, Black Grass, Beggar's-ticks, Marsh Fleabanes, Sea Oxeye, Sea Lavender and others.

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