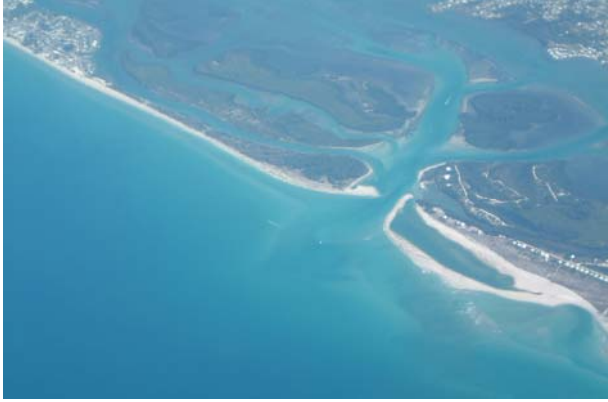


Inlet



Status

Current condition: Unknown.

Due to the lack of sufficient map data for this habitat category, no acreage estimates are currently available.

Some habitat distributions or locations may be misrepresented on this map due to size, resolution and insufficient data sources.

Habitat Description

FNAI type: None

Inlets are natural or man-made cuts in the shoreline that link coastal and inland water bodies. This habitat is defined as the subtidal area within a two-kilometer radius of the central part (i.e., throat) of the Inlet. These features tend to be hot spots of biodiversity and are critical in the recruitment of many fish and invertebrate species. Inlets provide habitat for the settling larvae from coastal areas and provide an emigration conduit for outgoing juveniles. They also are essential spawning habitat for several marine fishes.

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Mammals

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| • <i>Trichechus manatus latirostris</i> | Florida Manatee |
| • <i>Eubalaena glacialis</i> | North Atlantic Right Whale |
| • <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> | Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin |

Birds

- *Gavia immer*
 - *Podiceps auritus coronatus*
 - *Sula dactylatra*
 - *Pelecanus occidentalis*
 - *Egretta caerulea*
 - *Egretta rufescens*
 - *Nycticorax nycticorax*
 - *Ajaja ajaja*
 - *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
 - *Charadrius alexandrinus tenuirostris*
 - *Charadrius wilsonia*
 - *Charadrius melodus*
 - *Haematopus palliatus*
 - *Recurvirostra americana*
 - *Limosa fedoa*
 - *Calidris alba*
 - *Sterna nilotica*
 - *Sterna caspia*
 - *Sterna maxima*
 - *Sterna sandvicensis*
 - *Sterna dougallii*
 - *Sterna antillarum*
 - *Rynchops niger*
- Common Loon
 - Horned Grebe
 - Masked Booby
 - Brown Pelican
 - Little Blue Heron
 - Reddish Egret
 - Black-crowned Night-Heron
 - Roseate Spoonbill
 - Bald Eagle
 - Cuban Snowy Plover
 - Wilson's Plover
 - Piping Plover
 - American Oystercatcher
 - American Avocet
 - Marbled Godwit
 - Sanderling
 - Gull-billed Tern
 - Caspian Tern
 - Royal Tern
 - Sandwich Tern
 - Roseate Tern
 - Least Tern
 - Black Skimmer

Reptiles

- *Crocodylus acutus*
 - *Malaclemys terrapin*
 - *Chelonia mydas*
 - *Eretmochelys imbricata*
 - *Caretta caretta*
 - *Lepidochelys kempii*
 - *Nerodia clarkii clarkii*
 - *Nerodia clarkii compressicauda*
 - *Nerodia clarkii taeniata*
- American Crocodile
 - Diamondback Terrapin
 - Green Turtle
 - Hawksbill
 - Loggerhead
 - Kemp's Ridley
 - Gulf Salt Marsh Snake
 - Mangrove Salt Marsh Snake
 - Atlantic Salt Marsh Snake

Fish

- *Ginglymostoma cirratum*
 - *Carcharhinus acronotus*
 - *Carcharhinus isodon*
 - *Carcharhinus leucas*
 - *Carcharhinus limbatus*
 - *Negaprion brevirostris*
 - *Sphyrna lewini*
 - *Sphyrna mokarran*
 - *Sphyrna tiburo*
 - *Pristis pristis*
 - *Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*
 - *Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*
 - *Anguilla rostrata*
 - *Uropterygius macularius*
 - *Alosa aestivalis*
- Nurse Shark
 - Blacknose Shark
 - Finetooth Shark
 - Bull Shark
 - Blacktip Shark
 - Lemon Shark
 - Scalloped Hammerhead
 - Great Hammerhead
 - Bonnethead
 - Large-tooth Sawfish
 - Atlantic Sturgeon
 - Gulf Sturgeon
 - American Eel
 - Marbled Moray
 - Blueback Herring

- *Alosa sapidissima* American Shad
- *Mugil gyrans* Whirligig Mullet
- *Mugil sp.* Redeye Mullet
- *Centropomus undecimalis* Common Snook
- *Centropristis striata* Black Sea Bass
- *Epinephelus itajara* Goliath Grouper
- *Epinephelus morio* Red Grouper
- *Mycteroperca bonaci* Black Grouper
- *Mycteroperca microlepis* Gag
- *Apogon aurolineatus* Bridle Cardinalfish
- *Apogon binotatus* Barred Cardinalfish
- *Apogon townsendi* Belted Cardinalfish
- *Astrapogon alutus* Bronze Cardinalfish
- *Astrapogon puncticulatus* Blackfin Cardinalfish
- *Rachycentron canadum* Cobia
- *Caranx latus* Horse-eye Jack
- *Trachinotus carolinus* Florida Pompano
- *Trachinotus falcatus* Permit
- *Lutjanus analis* Mutton Snapper
- *Lutjanus apodus* Schoolmaster
- *Lutjanus campechanus* Red Snapper
- *Lutjanus griseus* Gray Snapper
- *Lutjanus jocu* Dog Snapper
- *Lobotes surinamensis* Atlantic Tripletail
- *Anisotremus virginicus* Porkfish
- *Orthopristis chrysoptera* Pigfish
- *Archosargus probatocephalus* Sheepshead
- *Pogonias cromis* Black Drum
- *Sciaenops ocellatus* Red Drum
- *Prognathodes aculeatus* Longsnout Butterflyfish
- *Stegastes partitus* Bicolor Damselfish
- *Lachnolaimus maximus* Hogfish
- *Stathmonotus hemphilli* Blackbelly Blenny
- *Scomberomorus cavalla* King Mackerel
- *Etropus crossotus* Fringed Flounder
- *Paralichthys albigutta* Gulf Flounder
- *Canthigaster rostrata* Sharpnose Puffer

Invertebrates

- *Crassostrea virginica* Eastern Oyster
- *Arenicola cristata* Lugworm
- *Limulus polyphemus* Horseshoe Crab
- *Clibanarius vittatus* Thinstripe Hermit Crab
- *Lysmata spp.* Peppermint Shrimp
- *Panulirus argus* Spiny Lobster
- *Farfantepenaeus duorarum* Pink Shrimp
- *Callinectes sapidus* Blue Crab

Conservation Threats

Threats to the Inlet habitats that were also identified for multiple other habitats are addressed in the Chapter Multiple Habitat Threats and Conservation Actions. These threats include:

- Channel modification/shipping lanes
- Coastal development
- Dam operations/incompatible release of water (quality, quantity, timing)
- Disruption of longshore transport of sediments
- Fishing gear impacts
- Harmful algal blooms
- Incompatible fishing pressure
- Incompatible industrial operations
- Incompatible recreational activities
- Industrial spills
- Invasive animals
- Invasive plants
- Management of nature (beach nourishment and impoundments)
- Nutrient loads (urban)
- Roads, bridges and causeways
- Surface water and groundwater withdrawal
- Vessel impacts

The following stresses and sources of stress threaten this habitat:

Stresses		Habitat Stress Rank
A	Habitat disturbance	High
B	Altered species composition	Medium
C	Altered structure	Medium
D	Altered water quality—physical, chemistry	Medium
E	Erosion	Medium
F	Habitat destruction	Medium
G	Altered hydrologic regime	Medium
H	Keystone species missing or lacking in abundance	Medium
I	Sedimentation	Medium

The sources of stress, or threats, were used to generate conservation actions.

Sources of Stress		Habitat Source Rank	Related Stresses (see above)
1	Channel modification/shipping lanes	High	A, D, E, F, G, I
2	Shoreline hardening	High	C, E, F, I
3	Dam operations/incompatible release of water: (quality, quantity, timing)	High	A, D, G, I
4	Disruption of longshore transport of sediments	High	E, I
5	Coastal development	High	B, C, D, F, G
6	Management of nature (beach nourishment, impoundments)	High	A, B, I
7	Boating impacts	High	A

Sources of Stress		Habitat Source Rank	Related Stresses (see above)
8	Incompatible recreational activities	High	A
9	Light pollution	High	B
10	Industrial spills	Medium	A
11	Harmful algal blooms	Medium	B
12	Road, bridges and causeways	Medium	C, F, G
13	Inadequate stormwater management	Medium	B, D, G
14	Incompatible industrial operations	Medium	B, F
15	Invasive plants	Medium	B
16	Incompatible fishing pressure	Medium	B, H
17	Acoustic pollution	Medium	A
18	Vessel impacts	Medium	A, F
19	Utility corridors	Medium	A
20	Fishing gear impacts	Medium	A
21	Military activities	Medium	A
22	Invasive animals	Medium	A, B
23	Surface water withdrawal	Medium	D
Statewide Threat Rank of Habitat		Very High	

Conservation Actions

Actions to abate the threats to Inlet that were also identified as statewide threats (see list above), are in Chapter Multiple Habitats Threats and Conservation Actions. Many of the threats to the Inlet habitat category are the same as for several other marine and estuarine habitats. Consequently, actions to abate these threats will be the same or similar to the actions recommended for abating threats to several other marine and estuarine habitats (e.g., Beach/Surf Zone, Coastal Strand, Coral Reef, Hard Bottom, Mangrove Swamp, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Coastal Tidal River or Stream).