



List of organisms and locations--alphabetical by location

Habitat/ associated buoy	Organism	Organism Description
Aquatic reefs/Potomac buoy	Eastern Oyster	Eastern oysters live in shallow, brackish and salty waters of the Bay. They concentrate in areas with firm bottoms and attach to one another to form dense reefs.
	Oyster Drill	Oyster drills live in the brackish and salty waters of the mid- to lower Bay near oyster reefs, pilings and piers.
	Red-beard Sponge	Red beard sponges live on piers, in thick clumps, in the brackish and salty areas of the Bay. They can also live in deeper waters—on wrecks and oyster reefs.
	Sea Squirt	Sea squirts attach to rocks, piers and oyster reefs. They prefer high salinity waters.
	Toadfish	Toadfish live throughout the bottom of the higher salinity waters of the Bay, among wrecks, oyster reefs and rocky bottoms. In winter, they move to deep waters.
Bay grass beds/Stingray Point buoy	Blue Crab	Blue crabs use all Bay habitats. During warm weather, they are more abundant in shallow waters. Males prefer fresher waters, while females tend to stay in the saltier waters.
	Cownose Ray	The cownose ray migrates to shallow waters with relatively high salt content when in the Bay.
	Eel Grass	Eel grass prefers water with a high salt content, and like all Bay grasses, lives in water that is shallow enough for light to reach the bottom.
	Grass Cerith	Grass ceriths are tiny snails found in bay grass meadows. They prefer eel grass and live in Bay areas with high salinity.
	Sea Horse	Sea horses live in high-salinity areas of the Bay. In warmer months they are found in grass meadows, but move to deeper waters when it's cold.



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	Widgeon Grass	Widgeon grass tolerates a wide variety of salinities and lives in shallow areas with muddy or sandy sediments.
Intertidal flats	Clam Worm	Clam worms are found everywhere in the Chesapeake Bay. They are buried in mud.
	Diamondback Terrapin	Diamondback terrapins live in brackish to saltwater marshes. Females lay eggs in sandy soil above high tide.
	Great Blue Heron	Great Blue Herons live on the Bay year round. They live in creeks, mudflats, marshes and ponds.
	Soft shell Clam	Soft shell clams can live in brackish to salty waters. They bury themselves in sediment in shallow to deep waters.
Open waters	Horseshoe Crab	Horseshoe crabs live in the areas of the Bay with higher salt content. The adults live in deep waters and lay their eggs on sandy beaches. The juveniles live in shallow waters.
	Menhaden	Menhaden can be found throughout the Bay from spring through autumn.
	Sea Cucumber	Sea cucumbers are found in the deep, salty waters of the Bay.
	Sea Nettles	Known for their stinging cells, sea nettles live in waters with higher salt content.
	Striped Bass	Striped bass are found throughout the Bay year-round. In spring they swim upstream to lay their eggs.
	Sturgeon	Once plentiful in the Bay, sturgeon are now rare. They come from the ocean and swim the length of the Bay to lay their eggs in the fresh water tributaries.
Piers, Rocks, and Jetties	Barnacle	Bay barnacles tolerate a wide range of salinities and live on pier pilings, rocks and shells.
	Osprey	Osprey are found around much of the Bay in the spring and summer
	Phytoplankton	Phytoplankton are floating plants and bacteria that live near the water's surface throughout the Bay.



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	Sea Roach	Sea roaches are found throughout much of the Bay, crawling on jetties, piers and rocks, often above the water line.
	Zooplankton	Zooplankton are free floating animals that are found near the surface of the water throughout the Bay with their food, phytoplankton.
Sandy beaches	Herring Gull	Herring gulls can be found around the Bay's beaches, piers and rivers.
	Ribbon Worm	Ribbon worms are widely distributed through sandy, muddy, and shallow waters. They can tolerate a range of salinity levels.
	Ruddy Turnstone	Ruddy turnstones visit the Bay in the spring, summer and fall, when they scurry along the sandy beaches.
Wetlands	Broad-leaved Cattail	Broad-leaved cattails live in freshwater marshes. A closely related species lives in brackish to salty water.
	Canada Goose	Canada geese can be found throughout the Bay region from the autumn through spring. Some live around the Bay year round.
	Mallard	The mallard lives in freshwater marshes, rivers and bays. It appears in the Chesapeake Bay primarily during the autumn, winter and spring.
	Muskrat	Musk rats live throughout the Bay, especially in marshy areas.
	Wild Celery	Wild celery is a freshwater bay grass.