

# COASTAL HABITATS OF LONG ISLAND SOUND

## ANSWER KEY



During the virtual field trip, you learned about three coastal habitats of Long Island Sound. *Label the habitats and give specific examples of how they are important to the whole Long Island Sound marine ecosystem.*

Habitat Name Salt Marsh



**Why is this habitat important?**

- Nursery habitat to animals
- Feeding & nesting for coastal birds
- Peat absorbs pollution from the land

Habitat Name Rocky intertidal Zone



**Why is this habitat important?**

- Rocks are a hiding place for animals when the tide changes
- Rocks keep soft sediments and mud in place from eroding
- Soft areas allow animals to burrow in and stay damp when the tide changes

Habitat Name Sandy Beach



**Why is this habitat important?**

- Foraging grounds for migrating birds
- Wrack line - deposits of seaweed that micro-organisms can live in to stay damp
- Absorbs water, so animals can burrow into the sand and live underground