

GLOSSARY

Adapted from: *CLASSIFICATION OF WETLANDS AND DEEPWATER HABITATS OF THE UNITED STATES* (U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS/OBS-79/31, December 1979, Reprinted 1992)

bar An elongated landform generated by waves and currents, usually running parallel to the shore, composed predominantly of unconsolidated sand, gravel, stones, cobbles, or rubble and with water on two sides.

beach A sloping landform on the shore of larger water bodies, generated by waves and currents and extending from the water to a distinct break in landform or substrate type (e.g., a fore dune, cliff, or bank).

boulder Rock fragments larger than 60 .4 cm (24 inches) in diameter .

channel "An open conduit either naturally or artificially created which periodically or continuously contains moving water, or which forms a connecting link between two bodies of standing water" (Langbein and Iseri 1960:5).

channel bank The sloping land bordering a channel. The bank has steeper slope than the bottom of the channel and is usually steeper than the land surrounding the channel.

cobbles Rock fragments 7.6 cm (3 inches) to 25 .4 cm (10 inches) in diameter .

emergent hydrophytes Erect, rooted, herbaceous angiosperms that may be temporarily to permanently flooded at the base but do not tolerate prolonged inundation of the entire plant; e.g. ., bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.), salt marsh cord grass.

emergent mosses Mosses occurring in wetlands, but generally not covered by water.

eutrophic lake Lake that has a high concentration of plant nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus .

flat A level landform composed of unconsolidated sediments usually mud or sand. Flats may be irregularly shaped or elongate and continuous with the shore, whereas bars are generally elongate, parallel to the shore, and separated from the shore by water.

floating plant A non-anchored plant that floats freely in the water or on the surface; e.g., water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) or common duckweed (*Lemna minor*).

floating-leaved plant A rooted, herbaceous hydrophyte with some leaves floating on the water surface; e.g., white water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), floating-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*). Plants such as yellow water lily (*Nuphar luteum*) which sometimes have leaves raised above the surface are considered floating-leaved plants or emergents, depending on their growth habit at a particular site.

gravel A mixture composed primarily of rock fragments 2mm (0 .08 inch) to 7.6 cm (3 inches) in diameter . Usually contains much sand.

growing season The frost-free period of the year (see U.S. Department of Interior, National Atlas 1970:110-111 for generalized regional delineation).

herbaceous With the characteristics of an herb; a plant with no persistent woody stem above ground.

hydric soil Soil that is wet long enough to periodically produce anaerobic conditions, thereby influencing the growth of plants .

hydrophyte, hydrophytic Any plant growing in water or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content.

lacustrine The Lacustrine System includes wetlands and deepwater habitats with all of the following characteristics: (1) situated in a topographic depression or a dammed river channel; (2) lacking trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens with greater than 30% areal coverage; and (3) total area exceeds 8 ha (20 acres). Similar wetland and deepwater habitats totaling less than 8 ha are also included in the Lacustrine System if an active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline feature makes up all or part of the boundary, or if the water depth in the deepest part of the basin exceeds 2 m (6.6 feet) at low water. Lacustrine waters may be tidal or nontidal, but ocean-derived salinity is always less than 0.5 parts per thousand.

macrophytic algae Algal plants large enough either as individuals or communities to be readily visible without the aid of optical magnification.

mesophyte, mesophytic Any plant growing where moisture and aeration conditions lie between extremes. (Plants typically found in habitats with average moisture conditions, not usually dry or wet.)

nonpersistent emergents Emergent hydrophytes whose leaves and stems break down at the end of the growing season so that most above-ground portions of the plants are easily transported by currents, waves, or ice. The breakdown may result from normal decay or the physical force of strong waves or ice. At certain seasons of the year there are no visible traces of the plants above the surface of the water; e.g., wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*), arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*).

obligate hydrophytes Species that are found only in wetlands e.g., cattail (*Typha latifolia*) as opposed to ubiquitous species that grow either in wetland or on upland-e.g., red maple (*Acer rubrum*).

Palustrine The Palustrine System includes all nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas where salinity due to ocean derived salts is below 0.5 parts per thousand. It also includes wetlands lacking such vegetation, but with all of the following four characteristics: (1) area less than 8 ha (20 acres); (2) active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline features lacking; (3) water depth in the deepest part of basin less than 2 m (6.6 feet) at low water; and (4) salinity due to ocean-derived salts is less than 0.5 parts per thousand.

persistent emergent Emergent hydrophytes that normally remain standing at least until the beginning of the next growing season; e.g., cattails (*Typha* spp.) or bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.).

photic zone The upper water layer down to the depth of effective light penetration where photosynthesis balances respiration. This level (the compensation level) usually occurs at the depth of 1% light penetration and forms the lower boundary of the zone of net metabolic production.

shrub A woody plant which at maturity is usually less than 6 m (20 feet) tall and generally exhibits several erect, spreading, or prostrate stems and has a bushy appearance; e.g., speckled alder (*Alnus rugosa*) or buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*).

stone Rock fragments larger than 25.4 cm (10 inches) but less than 60.4 cm (24 inches).

submergent plant Avascular or nonvascular hydrophyte, either rooted or nonrooted, which lies entirely beneath the water surface, except for flowering parts in some species; e.g., wild celery (*Vallisneria spiralis*) or the stoneworts (*Chara* spp.).

tree A woody plant which at maturity is usually 6 m (20 feet) or more in height and generally has a single trunk, unbranched for 1 m or more above the ground, and a more or less definite crown; e.g., red maple (*Acer rubrum*), northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*).

water table The upper surface of a zone of saturation. No water table exists where that surface is formed by an impermeable body (Langbein and Iseri 1960 :21).

woody plant A seed plant (gymnosperm or angiosperm) that develops persistent, hard, fibrous tissues, basically xylem; e.g., trees and shrubs.