

## MAP 4: HAMPTON – SEABROOK ESTUARY

The Hampton-Seabrook Estuary is a shallow, tidally dominated, barrier beach system. The watershed encompasses 47 square miles, and includes the towns of Hampton, Hampton Falls, North Hampton, Stratham, Seabrook, Exeter, and Kensington, NH, and Salisbury, MA. The Estuary receives freshwater inputs from Tide Mill Creek to the north, the Taylor and Hampton Falls Rivers from the northwest, Brown's River and Cain's Brook from the west, and the Blackwater and Little Rivers from the south. Unlike the Great Bay Estuary, the Hampton Seabrook Estuary contains over 4,000 acres of tidal marsh. In addition, the Estuary supports many other important coastal habitats. The estuary provides a natural filtration system for water as it flows in to the ocean and provides a natural buffer that protects upland areas from storm surge and erosion. The Estuary is increasingly vulnerable to increased flooding and storm surge events. These events cause increased shoreline erosion, damaging one of the primary defense mechanisms for coastal flooding. Coastal habitats and ecosystems are also vulnerable to changing weather patterns, which are vital to the health of the Estuary.



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