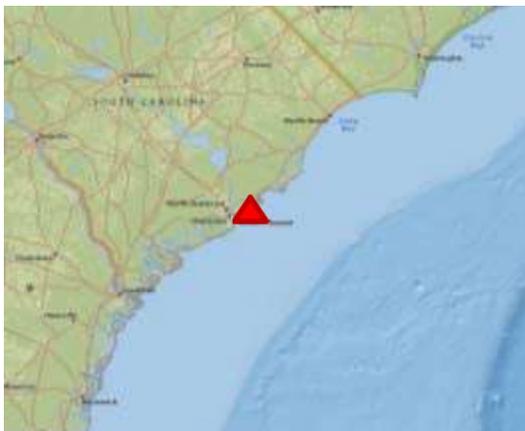


Gray's Sound, SC; USA



Terrestrial photograph of tidal flat, captured at low tide, with many oyster patch reefs present. The extensive flats between reefs consists of highly organic silt substrate locally known as pluff mud. The foreground consists mostly of dead shell with more standing live shell visible farther away. Dominant biota here are eastern oyster. The field of view in foreground is approx. 10 meters.



General location map



Aerial image showing numerous patch reefs on intertidal flats.

CMECS Classification

Biogeographic Setting:

- Realm: Temperate North Atlantic
- Province: Warm Temperate Northwest Atlantic
- Ecoregion: Carolinian

Aquatic Setting:

- System: Marine
- Subsystem: Nearshore
- Tidal Zone: Intertidal
-

Water Column Component: N/A

Geoform Component:

- Tectonic Setting: Passive Continental Margin
- Physiographic Setting: Embayment/Bay
- Geoform Origin: Biologic
- Level 1 Geoform: Flat
- Level 1 Geoform Type: Tidal Flat
- Level 2 Geoform: Mollusk Reef
- Level 2 Geoform Type: Patch Mollusk Reef

Substrate Component:

- Substrate Origin: Biogenic Substrate
- Substrate Class: Shell Substrate
- Substrate Subclass: Shell Reef Substrate
- Substrate Group: Oyster Reef Substrate

Biotic Component

- Biotic Setting: Benthic/Attached Biota
- Biotic Class: Reef Biota
- Biotic Subclass: Mollusk Reef Biota
- Biotic Group: Oyster Reef
- Biotic Community: *Crassostrea* Communities