

# Hempstead Bay, NY; USA



Terrestrial photograph of small cove captured at low tide. Most of the scene is dominated by Atlantic blue mussel reef. In some areas green macroalgae has colonized the reef. These mussels are fully consolidated and thus would be considered a reef as opposed to a bed in which case they would be in loose aggregations. In this setting the mussels form the dominant biota but also serve as substrate.



General location map

# CMECS Classification

## **Biogeographic Setting:**

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

## **Aquatic Setting:**

- System: Estuarine
- Subsystem: Coastal
- Tidal Zone: Intertidal

## **Water Column Component: N/A**

## **Geoform Component:**

- Tectonic Setting: Passive Continental Margin
- Physiographic Setting: Continental/Island Shore Complex
- Geoform Origin: Biologic
- Level 1 Geoform: Flat
- Level 1 Geoform Type: Tidal Flat
- Level 2 Geoform: Mollusk Reef
- Level 2 Geoform Type: Undifferentiated

## **Substrate Component:**

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

## **Biotic Component**

- Biotic Setting: Benthic/Attached Biota
- Biotic Class: Reef Biota
- Biotic Subclass: Mollusk Reef Biota
- Biotic Group: Mussel Reef
- Biotic Community: *Mytilus* Reef
- Co-occurring Element: *Ulva lactuca* Communities