



**Atlantic Silverside**  
**(Menidia menidia)**

The sex is determined by the temperature of the water the larve are exposed to. Cold water produces females and warm water produces males.



**Atlantic Ribbed mussel (Geukensia demissa)**

- Ribbed mussels can live to be up to 15 years old.
- Ribbed mussel's are on average 10 cm in length but can grow to be 13 cm.

**Hard Clam (Mercenaria mercenaria)**

- The hard clam is an edible bivalve mollusc.
- In some areas, the hard clam is called a quahog.



**Phragmites (Phragmites australis)**

- Phragmites is a member of the grass family.
- Phragmites is successful invasive species in New York.



**Narrow Leaved Cattails**  
**(Typha angustifolia)**

- Several parts of the cattail are edible, including the starchy roots and the inner core of the stalk.
- It is believed that cattails were introduced to North America from Europe.



**Fiddler Crab (Luptuca pugilator)**

The male's major claw is bigger than the minor claw while the female's claws are the same size.

**Eastern Mudsnail (Tritia obsoleta)**

The Eastern Mudsnail's shell can grow to a maximum length of 28mm, or a little over an inch.



**Salt marsh cordgrass**  
**(Spartina alterniflorus)**

Salt marsh cordgrass can perform photosynthesis and much lower temperature than other plants, which makes it a very successful invasive species.



# ALLEY POND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

## Salt Marsh Biodiversity Guide



### Horseshoe crab (Limulus Polyphemus)

Females are usually 25-30% larger in width and length than males and can be twice the weight

### Salt Hay (Spartina patens)



-Salt hay is also known as salt meadow cord grass in some regions.

-It can become a successful invasive species, but is native to New York.



### Glass Eel (Anguilla rostrata)

The glass eel is the juvenile stage of the American eel's life so at different times of the year different stages can be seen.

### Mummichog (Fundulus heteroclitus)

Females tend to be paler in color and less yellow on the belly with no stripes.



### Atlantic Menhaden (Brevoortia tyrannus)

Menhaden can spawn all year round in inshore waters.

### Great Blue Heron (Ardea Herodias)

The heron needs to forage from several areas in order to acquire enough food to feed its family, which is called a rookery.



### Beach Flea (Platorchestia platensis)

The beach flea is commonly thought to be an insect but is actually classified as a crustacean.

