

EXPLANATION *

SUBAQUEOUS ENVIRONMENTS AND ASSEMBLAGES

(Primarily benthonic organisms with limited mobility)

- Shelf, open marine, normal salinity (35‰), mottled mud, diverse organisms, principally mollusks, crustaceans, and echinoderms, depth >30 feet
- Lower shoreface, open marine, normal salinity (35‰), moderate wave action, sand, silt, and mud, infauna dominant, mud shrimp, mollusks, depth 15 to 30 feet
- Upper shoreface, surf zone, shifting sand, normal salinity (35‰), mollusks, sand dollars, starfish, crustaceans, depth low tide to 15 feet
- Bay and lagoon margin, seasonally hypersaline shoal water bordering mainland, sand, some shell, oolites, shifting sandbars, sparse grass, algae, salinity 30-80‰, temperature 12-43°C, mollusks, low diversity, depth <3 feet, unmapped salt marsh along shore
- Grassflats, hypersaline, sparse to moderate grass, sand, shell, and muddy sand, salinity 30-80‰, temperature 12-43°C, abundant mollusks, low diversity, algae, depth <4 feet
- Restricted hypersaline bay and lagoon margin, away from tidal influence, rare river input, local oolites, muddy sand, salinity 5-80‰, normally >30‰, temperature 12-43°C, sparse grass, clams, low population and diversity, algae, depth <6 feet; thin band of salt marsh along mainland shore
- Restricted bay center, hypersaline, closed to tidal input, rare river influence, bottom euxinic, laminated mud in deeper parts, restricted from Laguna Madre by reef sill, salinity 5-80‰, commonly >30‰, barren or rare organisms, depth 6 to 12 feet
- Enclosed hypersaline bay or lagoon center, away from tidal or river influence, mud, mottled, salinity 30-80‰, abundant mollusks, low diversity, depth 4 to 12 feet
- Subaqueous sand flat, hypersaline, barren to sparse grass, salinity 30-80‰, temperature 12-43°C, locally abundant clams, "The Hole," restricted by spoil sill, radical salinity and temperature changes, depth to 3 feet
- Serpulid reefs (relict) and interreef shoals, shell, sand, reef rock, beach rock near mouth of Baffin Bay, high wave energy, ridge or mound bathymetry, salinity 5-80‰, temperature 12-43°C, depth to 6 feet
- Sand and oolite shoal, high wave and current energy, mounds, rare clam infauna, grass absent, salinity 30-80‰, temperature 12-43°C, depth 4 to 7 feet
- Subaqueous and subaerial spoil, artificial, sand, silt, mud, shell, normally poorly sorted, assemblage depends on age and local setting, depth and elevation variable
- Fresh to saline water bodies, landlocked ponds, playas, variable substrate, playas and coastal bodies temporarily saline

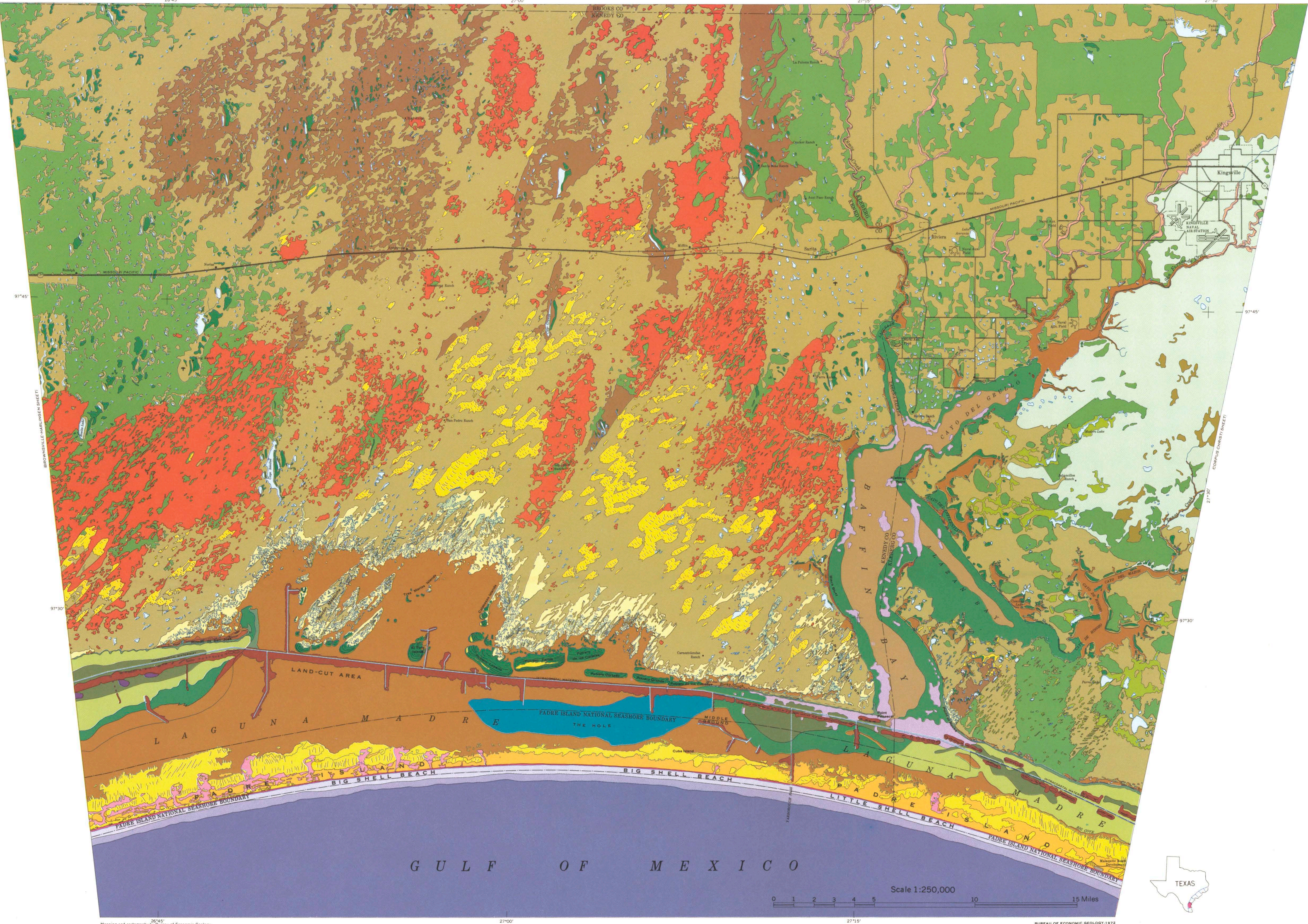
SUBAERIAL ENVIRONMENTS AND ASSEMBLAGES

(Primarily floral assemblages)

- Beach, swash zone, high wave energy, sand, shell, mollusks and crustacean infauna, back-beach sea-oats and halophytes, dunes, ghost crab, low tide to +5 feet
- Vegetated barrier flat, foredune ridge, stabilized blowouts, sand, shell, relief 5 to 45 feet, salt-tolerant grasses, vines, local fresh-water marsh, ghost crab, rodents, snakes, fowl
- Washover channel, fan, and wind-deflation trough and storm tunnel, sand, local mud, barren, algal mats, local ponds and fresh-water marsh
- Active dunes, coppice dune, blowouts, back-island dunes, inland dunes, barren, relief 3 to 40 feet, rodents, snakes
- Sand flats, wind-tidal, local mud, algal mats, emergent-submergent, -1 foot to +2 feet MSL, and barren lower stream courses, ephemeral, sand
- Eolian ridges and active clay-sand dunes, accretionary, intense wind, salt-tolerant grasses, snakes
- Berms along bay-lagoon margin, storm deposits, sand, shell, local salt and brackish-water marsh in swales and ponds, salt-tolerant grasses, snakes, fowl, unmappable narrow band of salt-water marsh along shore
- Intense wind-deflation and wind-tidal activity, erosion of sand sheet, salt-tolerant grasses on small unmapped clay dunes, algal mats
- Inland fresh-water marsh, sand or mud, rushes, cattail, sloughgrass, mammals, snakes, fowl, small unmapped marshes in sand and loess areas, some areas occupied by high moisture, non-marsh plants
- Prairie grasslands, flat to gently rolling upland, mud, silt, sand, uncultivated, distinctive grasses, mesquite, cactus, huisache, chaparral, fowl, mammals
- Poorly drained depressions, mud substrate, occasionally flooded, locally seasonal hydrophytes, other high-moisture plants and prairie grasses
- Loose sand and loess prairies, bunch grasses, commonly overgrazed, scattered oak mottes, fresh-water marsh in blowouts and depressions in wet cycles, rodents, mammals, snakes, fowl
- Poorly drained depressions, sand substrate, shallow water table, occasionally flooded, seasonal high-moisture plants, transitional with loose sand prairie plants
- Live-oak mottes, stabilized sand dunes and ridges, hummocky, dense moderate to dwarf oak, distinctive grasses, fowl, abundant game, climax vegetation
- Brushland, moderately stabilized dunes, inactive clay-sand dunes, some loess deposits, mesquite, chaparral, other scrub, distinctive grasses, cactus, game, fowl, climax vegetation
- Fluvial woodland, short timber, sparse, discontinuous, some hardwood, mesquite, huisache, mammals, fowl
- Made land, filled, graded, sand, mud, locally some vegetation

Sources of data given in text

* This map shows principally the distribution of major subaerial floral and subaqueous benthonic faunal assemblages. The legend includes only general biologic groups that are common or abundant. Refer to text for lists of specific plants and animals



Mapping and cartography by Bureau of Economic Geology
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Sources of data and credit for contributions to maps given in text

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