

## Estuary Vocabulary:

**Turbidity:** the amount of suspended particles in the water – how clear or cloudy the water is

**Salinity:** the amount of salt in the water. Long Island Sound has brackish water, which is a mixture of fresh and salt water.

**Nitrogen:** a nutrient that gets into the water through the atmosphere, runoff and sewage treatment.

**Phosphates:** a nutrient that gets into the water through runoff and sewage treatment.

**Intertidal Zone:** the area from the highest high-tide line on land to the lowest low-tide line in the water.

Wrack Line: a line of debris that is formed when the high tide recedes or goes back out. The wrack line is usually formed by shells and seaweed.

Dissolved Oxygen: oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) that has been dissolved in the water through photosynthesis or aeration (when air from the atmosphere mixes in with the water). When oxygen levels in the water are low, aquatic life is threatened.