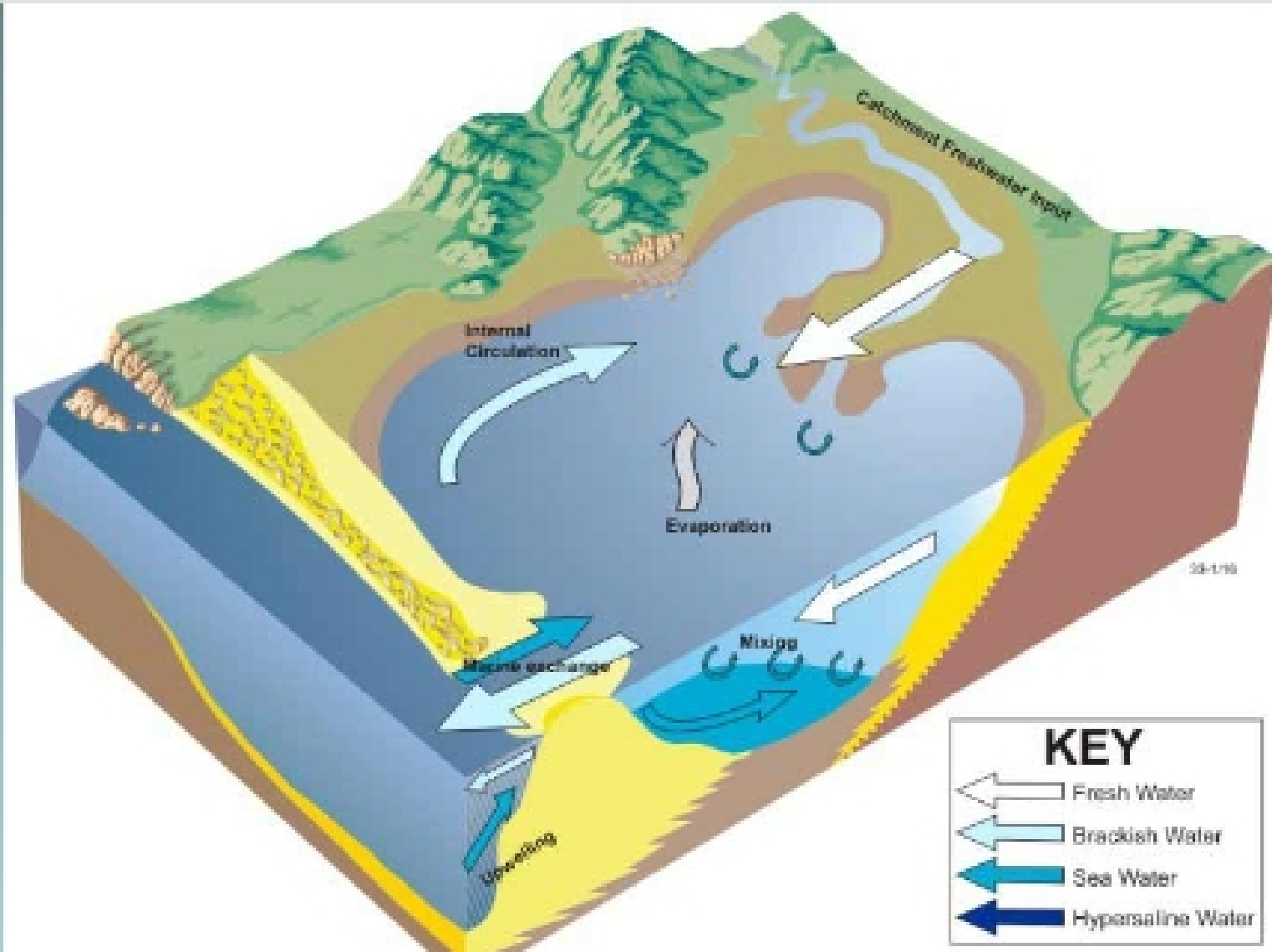
A satellite-style map showing a complex estuary and salt marsh system. The water bodies are colored in shades of blue and teal, while the surrounding land is brown and green. The text is overlaid in the lower right quadrant of the map.

Estuaries and Salt Marshes
MARS 3450
15 October 2013



Canonical definition: “An estuary is a semi-enclosed body of water which has a free connection with the sea and within which sea water is measurably diluted with fresh water.” (Pritchard)

Does this cover everything?

No!

- Lagoons - little fresh water, often seasonally hypersaline, "reverse estuaries"
- Atolls - no river, may receive ground water, rain
- Tidal Fresh Water - inland portion of an estuary
- Bights and other continental shelf features - physical behavior may be similar to estuaries