

Human Alterations to Estuaries: the San Francisco Bay-Estuary



A Case Study in Managing Estuarine Environments

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What is an Estuary?

- **Textbook definition:** “a semi-enclosed coastal body of water, which has a free connection with the open sea, and within which seawater is measurably diluted with freshwater derived from land drainage.”
(Cameron and Pritchard, 1963)
- **Sociological definition:** The primary sites of human habitation on the coast because of transportation (shipping) and resources (food, fresh water).

