

GREAT LAKES COASTAL WETLANDS CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

Great Lakes coastal wetlands can be separated into three specific systems based on their dominant hydrologic source and current hydrologic connectivity to the lake. These systems are different than those defined by the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). NWI defines three systems, Lacustrine, Riverine, and Palustrine. All of these NWI systems can have classes (Aquatic bed or Emergent) that are included within our wetland classification, but many of the classes are not wetland classes but hydrologic or substrate classes, such as rock bottom, unconsolidated bottom, unconsolidated shore, or open water.

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