

# Estuaries

**Estuaries** are formed where the **freshwater** from rivers meets the **saltwater** ocean and mix to form **“brackish” water** (in between salt and freshwater). They are important ecosystems for the land, the air, and the sea. Estuaries are common in protected bays with calm waters, and the habitats they create provide nurseries and feeding grounds for species of special concern, including salmon and sea birds.

