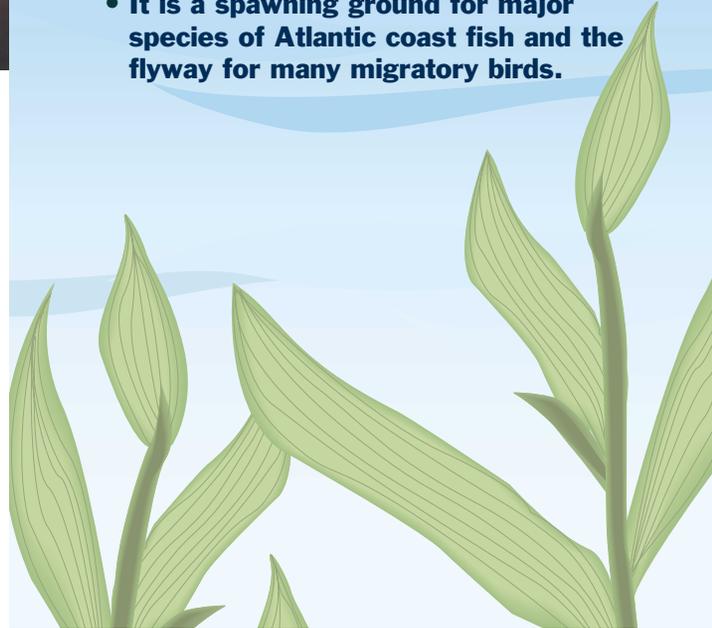




Photograph by Walt Thompson

The Hudson Estuary

- **Below the Troy Dam, the Hudson River is an estuary where fresh water and salt water from the ocean mix.**
- **The estuary is a rich ecological environment providing food and shelter to diverse plants and animals.**
- **It is a spawning ground for major species of Atlantic coast fish and the flyway for many migratory birds.**



For more information contact:
New York Sea Grant
10 Westbrook Lane
Kingston, NY 12401
Phone: (845) 340-3983



Funded in part by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through a grant from the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program.

Printed 2001
8M



What **Boaters** Should Know About **Hudson River Underwater Plant Beds**



You Can Help!

Boats and personal watercraft can easily damage underwater habitat.

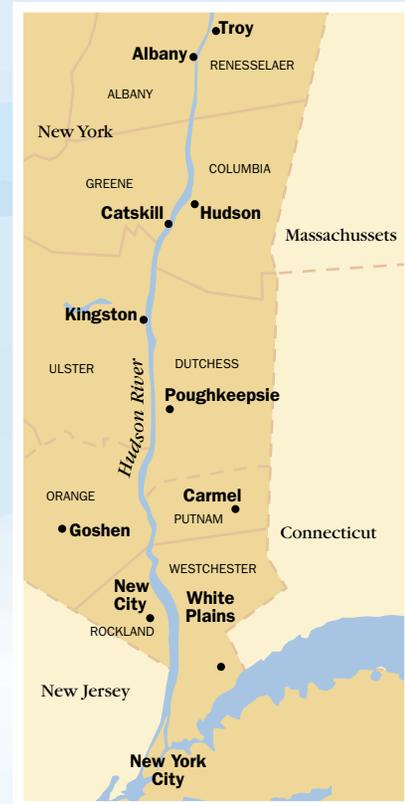
- **Tell your fellow boaters where the beds are located and how valuable they are to fish and wildlife.**
- **Keep your boat in the channel.**
- **Avoid motoring through plant beds.**
- **Avoid anchoring in the plant beds.**

Hudson River Plant Beds

While boating on the Hudson River during the summer months, have you noticed dense beds of underwater plants in shallow water?

Why are the Plant Beds So Valuable?

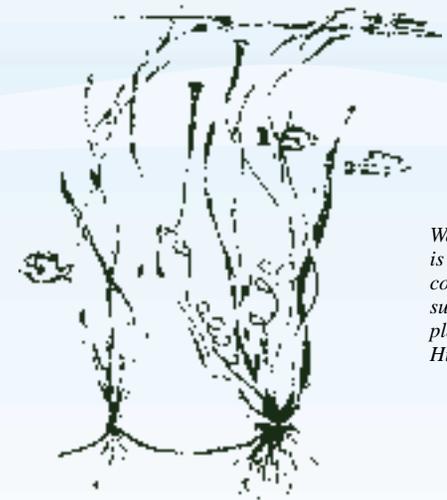
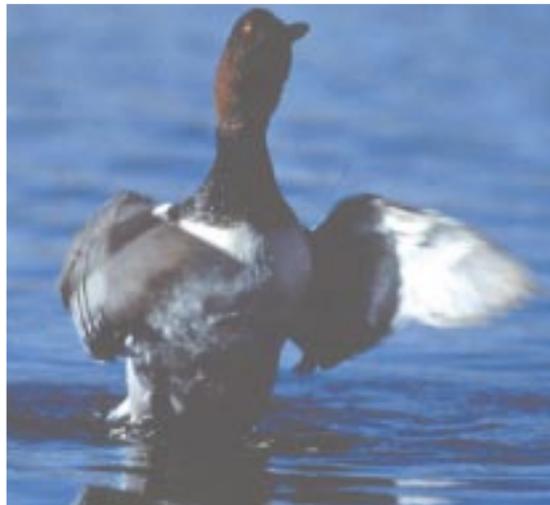
- Called submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), these beds are located throughout the river but most abundantly in the mid reaches, especially between Catskill and Kingston.
- The beds vary in size and type of plant.
- The most common plants are the native water celery and clasp-leaved pondweed as well as the non-native plants curly pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil.
- SAV contributes life-giving oxygen to the water and provides important habitat and feeding areas for fish and waterfowl.
- The underwater vegetation is an important nursery area for young fish including herring, white perch and carp.
- Wading birds such as great blue heron and snowy egret feed in the beds at low tide.
- A number of diving ducks rely on the Hudson's SAV beds.



Photograph by Nordica Holochuck

The canvasback eats more plants than other waterfowl with water celery being a favorite food.

Photograph by D. Robert Franz for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology



Water celery is the most common submerged plant in the Hudson River