

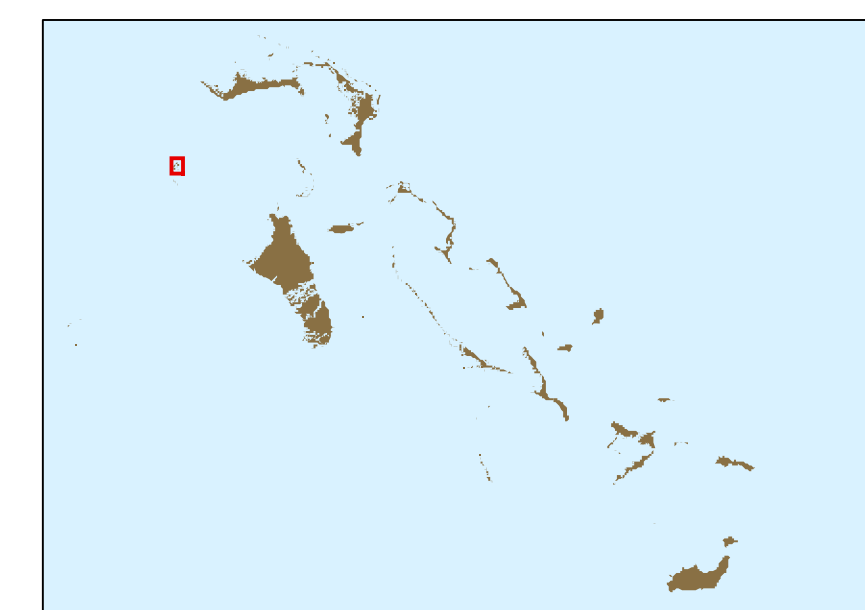
Map Legend:

- Dense Seagrass**
This habitat is dominated by the seagrass *Thalassia*, also called Turtle Grass, but may contain the tube-like seagrass *Syringodium*. Dense Seagrass habitats have high biomass (tall plants, high density) and a low amount of visible sand and silt. This habitat is found in lagoonal environments where sediment is deep enough for the seagrasses to take root.
- Medium Density Seagrass**
This habitat is dominated by the seagrass *Thalassia*, also called Turtle Grass, but may contain the tube-like seagrass *Syringodium* and the thin-bladed seagrass *Halodule*. Occasionally one also finds small coral colonies within the seagrass. Medium Density Seagrass habitats have medium biomass (medium plant height, medium density) and a medium amount of substratum is visible, when compared to Dense and Sparse Seagrass. This habitat is found in lagoonal environments.
- Sparse Seagrass**
This habitat is dominated by the seagrass *Thalassia*, also called Turtle Grass, but may contain the tube-like seagrass *Syringodium* and the thin-bladed seagrass *Halodule*. Occasionally one also finds small coral colonies within the seagrass. Sparse Seagrass habitats have relatively low biomass (short plants, low density) and a high amount of substratum is visible. This habitat is found in lagoonal environments where sediment is deep enough for the seagrasses to take root.
- Sand and Sparse Algae**
This habitat includes both clean sand and sand with a sparse algal community.
- Sparse Gorgonians and Algae**
Gorgonians include sea fans, sea feather plumes, sea whips, and sea rods. This habitat is composed of sparse gorgonians on a hardbottom with some algae. In Bimini, this benthic community is common along the west coast.
- Sparse Gorgonians and Algae with Ledges**
Alongside western Bimini there are large areas where gorgonians and algae grow on or near submerged rocky ledges. These communities provide important habitat for numerous fish species that are found living on coral reefs in other regions of The Bahamas.
- Macroalgal Plains**
There are extensive areas of Macroalgal Plains found around Bimini. In this habitat, hard, fairly flat bottom is covered by rooted algae. There are few corals or gorgonians growing on these plains.
- Porites Reef**
Bimini has some small, unique areas of extensive growth of the Finger Coral *Porites porites*. These areas typically support an abundant number of juvenile fish, particularly grunts, parrotfish, wrasse, and damselfish. These reefs are found in shallow water less than 2 meters deep.
- Mangrove**
Mangrove trees grow in shallow, brackish waters around the coasts of Bahamian islands. Their roots provide nursery habitat for many important fish species. Mangroves in and around estuaries also trap sediments that might otherwise flow onto reefs and smother corals to death.

Images of Bimini, The Bahamas.



The photo-like image on the left was created from spectral data collected by the IKONOS satellite sensor in March 2002. The habitat map on the right, including the 9 common, shallow bottom habitat types represented, was constructed from this spectral data as well. The habitat classification process used habitat-type data from ground-truthing spot surveys to assist with and verify classifications. This poster was designed for research and educational purposes only and is not intended for either navigation or quantitative assessments of all habitat types.



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