

# Module 12: Oceanography


## Topic 4 Content: Submergent Coasts Notes

### Introduction

#### Submergent Coasts

- Spit
- Tombolo
- Barrier Island
- Baymouth Bar

#### Introduction



A submergent coast is a sinking coastline due to subsidence or rising sea level. The Chesapeake Bay is one area that is currently a submergent coastline. These coastal features are formed by the process of deposition, or the layering of sediment transported from elsewhere by wind and water. In this interactivity, click on each of the tabs to learn more about the features of submergent coasts.

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#### Spit

### Submergent Coasts

Spit

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A spit is an accumulation of sand from moving water that is deposited from land into a bay. The image shows the Farewell Spit located in New Zealand.

Tombolo

Barrier Island

Baymouth Bar

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#### Tombolo

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#### Tombolo



A tombolo is an accumulation of sand that connects an island to the mainland or an island to another island. During high tide, this bar of sand may not be visible. As the tide lowers, the tombolo is present and provides access to the island.

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#### Barrier Island

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#### Barrier Island



A barrier island is a low lying strip of land or islands formed from the deposition of sand that runs parallel to the coast. These islands are highly susceptible to flooding from storms like hurricanes. Barrier islands are potentially at risk for severe flooding due to sea level rising. The image shows the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

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#### Baymouth Bar

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#### Baymouth Bar



A baymouth bar is a sandbar that forms and completely blocks a bay from the open ocean. This feature forms as two spits connect. In populated areas, dredging is required to stop baymouth bars from blocking bay access to boats and ships. Once the bay is blocked, the trapped body of water is called a lagoon. In the image, the baymouth bar is circled and since all of the water from the bay is trapped, a lagoon has formed.

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