

Salt Marsh Water Experiment



Cabrillo
Marine
Aquarium

Materials:

Tap water
Salt
Spoon/stirrer
Food coloring
2 jars
Towel (for spills)

Did you know, coastal SALT MARSHES get their water from both salt and fresh water sources...

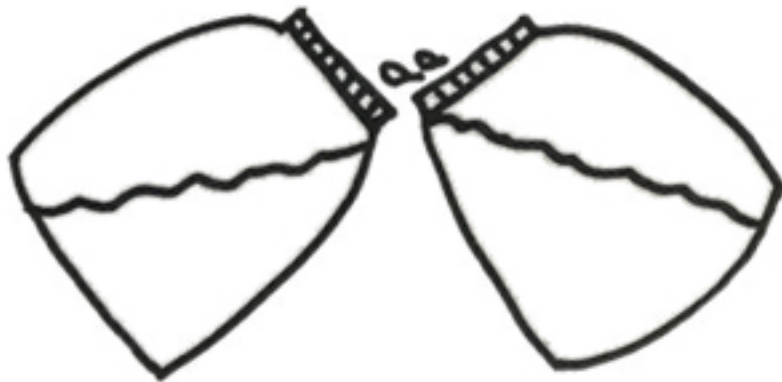
Salt water: ocean, tidal flushing

Fresh: rivers, rain, runoff

Sometimes these salt and fresh inputs mix together, forming brackish water, while other times they don't!

How to:

1. Fill each jar 1/2 full with tap water
2. Add salt to 1 jar + stir
3. Add food coloring to each jar
4. Pour salt water into fresh water
 - *Tip both jars
 - *Pour very slowly and carefully



Questions:

What do you think will happen when you pour them slowly together? Why?

What do you think will happen if you pour them quickly together? Why?

After pouring, what do you notice?
How can you explain what is happening?