

PICTURES OF THE SEDIMENTS

UPPER BAY



Sediment-profile image from the lower Providence River near Conimicut Point showing degraded benthic habitat quality. In this image, a relatively thin surface layer of lighter-colored, oxidized (*with oxygen*) sediment overlies black, anoxic (*without oxygen*) sediment at depth.

Anoxic sediments having a thin redox (oxidized) layer occur in typical in areas with high rates of organic loading (having organic material, such as sewage, put in it) and periodic low dissolved oxygen levels in near-bottom waters. The white shells near the sediment surface are numerous individuals of the opportunistic bivalve *Mulinia lateralis* (little surf clam). Courtesy SAIC, Newport, RI

LOWER BAY



Sediment-profile image from the West Passage of lower Narragansett Bay showing relatively healthy benthic habitat quality. The image shows well-oxygenated, sandy mud sediments, with a large burrow structure at depth indicating the presence of larger benthos (e.g., lobster) Courtesy SAIC, Newport, RI.

