

Appendix 1

Constants for the Conversion of SI Units Used in the Report to FPS Equivalents

Multiply	By	To Yield
centimeters (cm)	0.39	inches
cubic meters (m ³)	35.3	cubic feet
grams (g)	0.032	ounces
grams per square meter (g/m ²)	0.022	pounds per square foot
hectares (ha)	0.40	acres
kilometers (km)	0.62	statute miles
metric tons	1.10	tons
meters (m)	3.28	feet
millimeters (mm)	0.39	inches
square kilometers (km ²)	0.38	square miles

Appendix 2

Glossary of Technical Terms

aerobic: with oxygen; aerobic bacteria are capable of decomposing organic compounds in the presence of oxygen.

aggradation: raising of the surface as the result of accumulation of soil.

anaerobic: without oxygen; anaerobic bacteria decompose organic compounds in the absence of oxygen.

anoxic: oxygen-free.

astronomical tide: the rise and fall of the sea surface resulting from the gravitational pull of the moon and planets rather than by the forcing of the wind.

brackish: noting water salinity intermediate between that of the sea and fresh water; brackish wetlands are characterized by distinctive plant assemblages and are found in regions experiencing salinity about one-third or less than that of sea water.

bulk density: the dry weight of soil matter per unit of soil volume.

compaction: the loss of volume of sediments.

consolidated sediments: sediments that have been cemented together as a rock deposit.

crevasse: a break in a natural or artificial levee.

delta: a nearly flat plain of alluvial de-

posits between the diverging branches of a river mouth.

tributary: a diverging branch of a river mouth.

ecosystem: the aggregate of all organisms and the physical features in an environment.

estuary: a semi-enclosed body of water in which sea water is measurably diluted; most Louisiana estuaries are technically coastal lagoons rather than drowned river mouths.

eustatic sea-level rise: the rise in water level owing to changes in the volume of the oceans as a result of melting of glaciers and polar ice caps or thermal expansion of sea water.

evapotranspiration: the loss of water as a result of physical evaporation and plant transpiration.

fastland: land that is generally not periodically flooded.

fermentation: a type of respiration in which an organic molecule is used as a terminal electron acceptor, resulting in the production of an alcohol.

glaciation: the process of formation of glaciers, ice deposits on land that persist on a year-round basis.

halophyte: a plant with a high tolerance of salt.

hydrologic basin: a semi-enclosed region in which the surface waters are interconnected and potentially mixed.

humate/humic substance: complex organic matter with a characteristic dark color, soluble in water, that results from the decomposition of plant tissue in soil.
hydroperiod: the cycle of draining and flooding.

inorganic: noting or pertaining to compounds not containing carbon; inorganic sediments are composed of mineral matter, such as quartz and clay.

intermediate marsh: a grassy wetland that is characterized by a relatively diverse flora found under salinity conditions between those of brackish marshes and true freshwater wetlands.

levee: elevated land along a river or stream bank created either naturally, by the deposition of sediments by overbank flooding, or artificially, for flood protection.

lignin: a complex aromatic organic compound that is an important structural component of plants.

methanogenesis: the process of methane production, accomplished by a group of bacteria known as the methanogens.

organic: noting or pertaining to compounds of carbon; organic sediments include the remains of plants and animals.

pH: a measure of relative acidity (specifically the negative logarithm of the hydrogen ion concentration); a pH between 1 and 7 represents acidic conditions, whereas a pH between 7 and 14 represents basic conditions.

prodelta: an underwater feature found just offshore of a delta created by the accumulation of river-borne sediments.

porewater: the water contained between the grains of sediment.

primary production: the production of organic matter by plants through photosynthesis.

progradation: the seaward movement of the shoreline as a result of sea level fall or land building.

recruitment: the process of repopulation by the young of species.

redox potential: a measure of the availability of electrons; a low redox potential implies high electron availability and is a feature of waterlogged soils.

saltmarsh: a grassy wetland that occurs under saline conditions.

splay: a widening deposit of sediments that results from a crevasse.

storm surge: the rapid flooding from the sea that accompanies a storm passage.

subaerial: refers to land under air rather than continuously under water.

subsidence: the sinking of land resulting from downwarping of underlying deposits, the compaction of sediments, or the removal of subsurface fluids.

terminal electron acceptor: the molecule that accepts an electron during respiration, e.g., molecular oxygen is the terminal electron acceptor in the respiration of most higher organisms.

tidal prism: the volume of water that is exchanged between an estuary and the sea between high and low tide.

transgression: the landward movement of the shoreline as a result of sea-level rise and erosion.

wetland: periodically flooded land containing emergent vegetation.