A presentation by: Shane Ackerman

DROWNED RIVER VALLEY (AKA RIA)
What is a Drowned River Valley?

- Drowned river valleys are river valleys (i.e. a valley formed by the erosion of a river) which the ocean has flooded, “drowning” the valley.
Examples of Rias // Drowned River Valleys
Formation of the Feature

- As previously stated, Drowned river valleys (Rias) form where sea levels rise relative to the land either as a result of sea level change.
- This change can result from global ocean level rising, or local land height falling. This is referred to as Eustatic or Isostatic change, respectively.
Ecology of a Ria

- Rias are almost always estuaries, as a Ria is formed when the ocean (saltwater) is introduced into a river system (freshwater) resulting in a brackish, estuarine environment.

- Thus, the ecology of a ria would most likely be very similar to our own Barnegat Bay.
Future of a Ria

- A ria is subject to change only if the level of the world’s ocean changes, or if the land component of the ria erodes.
- This means that for the moment, a ria is a fairly stable ecosystem, only endangered by things that endanger everything, such as pollution, human development, and global warming (Al Gore)
Works Cited