Beach Ecology Vocabulary

**Abiotic:** Not living (ex: water)

**Barrier Island:** A long, broad sandy island lying parallel to a shore that is built up by the action of waves, currents, and winds and that protects the shore from the effects of the ocean

**Berm:** Zone of the beach with dry and soft sand

**Biotic:** Living or was once living (ex: dead tree or animal)

**Deposition:** The process in which sediment is laid down in new locations; addition of sediment

**Dune Meadow:** Zone of the beach in between the sand dunes. This area is protected from salt and wind and typically has many plants and animals

**Erosion:** The process by which water, wind, or gravity moves rock or soil; loss of sediment

**Intertidal Zone:** Zone of the beach where the ocean meets the land

**Sand Dunes:** Zone of the beach consisting of mounds of sand sometimes with sea oats on top. Sand dunes help protect against storms and hold sand in place against wind erosion

**Sea Oats:** A tall grass that grows on sand dunes and is useful as it catches more sand to create more sand dunes. It stabilizes dunes with its root system

**Wrack Line:** Zone of the beach where organic material (ex: spartina, seagrass, shells) and other debris is deposited at high tide