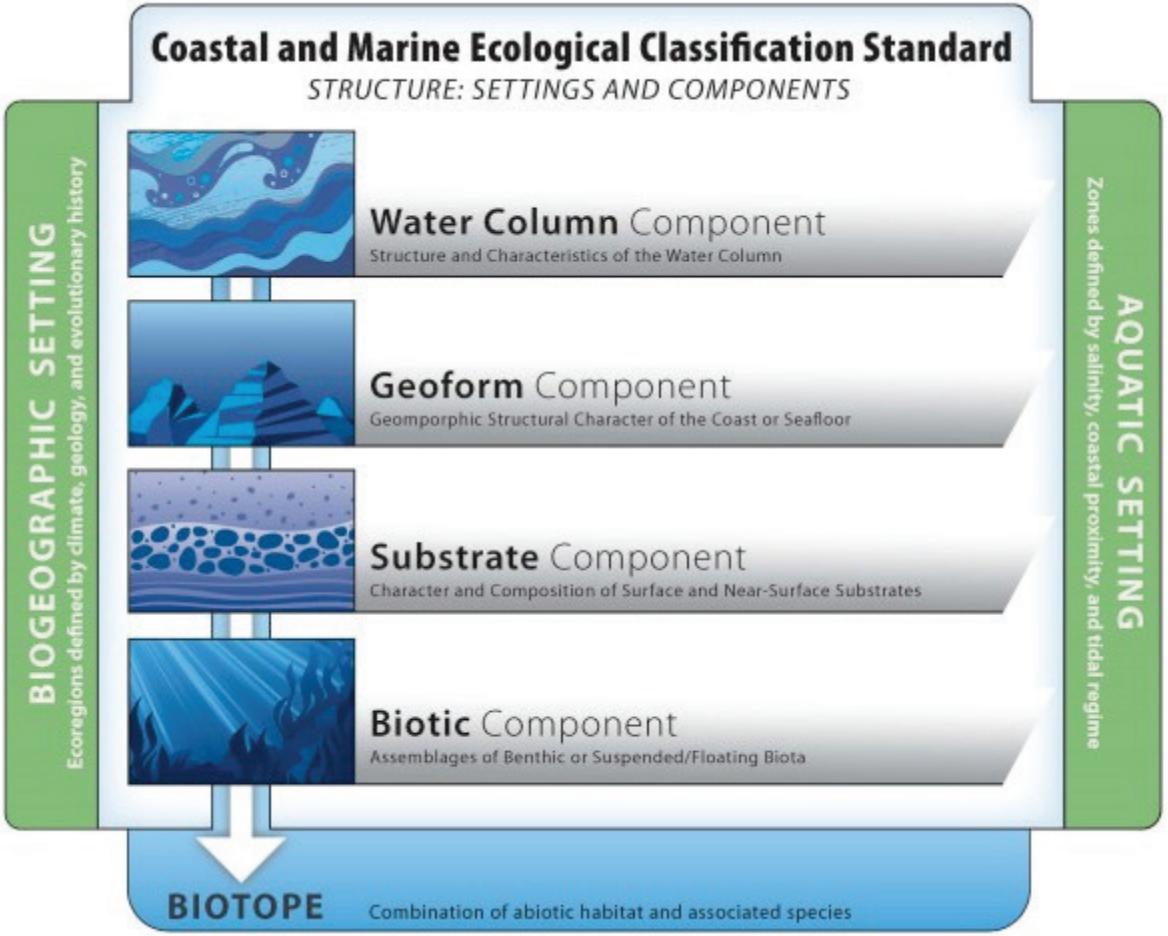
Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard
STRUCTURE: SETTINGS AND COMPONENTS
BIOGEOGRAPHIC SETTING
Ecoregions defined by climate, geology, and evolutionary history
Water Column Component
Structure and Characteristics of the Water Column
Geoform Component
Geomporphic Structural Character of the Coast or Seafloor
Substrate Component
Character and Composition of Surface and Near-Surface Substrates
Biotic Component
Assemblages of Benthic or Suspended/Floating Biota
AQUATIC SETTING
Zones defined by salinity, coastal proximity, and tidal regime
BIOTOPE
Combination of abiotic habitat and associated species