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Michael J. Kennish is a world-class estuarine scientist and a research professor in the Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey (USA). In addition to his research on estuaries, Dr. Kennish has conducted biological and geological research on coastal ocean and deep-sea environments. Much of his research has involved the development and application of innovative methods to assess anthropogenic impacts and to determine the condition and health of coastal ecosystems. Dr. Kennish is the author or editor of 14 scholarly books in marine science, and he is the author or co-author of more than 170 articles in science journals and books. In addition, he has edited 7 compendium science journal special issues on various topics in marine science.