



## Shoreline Habitat

The Habitat Type provides a simplified picture of the "look" of the unit overall, based on the detailed biophysical attributes that have been mapped. The Habitat Type category is a summary of the observations of both the unit's biological and geomorphological features.

Each Habitat Type has a definition that includes the typical substrate, wave exposure and biobands. For example, for the Semi-exposed, Immobile substrate Habitat Type, part of the definition of that class is a certain combination of the most likely biobands and indicator species present at a bedrock shoreline with no mobile sediment present.

How is Habitat Type determined?

Each Habitat Type has typical biological features (including both an indicator species list and typical associated biobands).

To determine the Habitat Type, the biomapper looks at the along-shore Units as designated and described by the physical mapper, and

1. reviews the physical mapping for the biobands in the unit and looks for indicator species,

2. assigns a bio-breakwave exposure category,

3. reviews the physical mapped information, and

4. assigns the Habitat Type that best describes the unit.

The Habitat Type is based on the whole unit and is similar to the physical mappers use of the 'Coastal Class' category, in that the detailed across-shore data are summarized into one attribute. The simplified category describes the features of the whole unit.

Habitat Type is a summary of the biophysical classification of the whole shore unit, based on:

- the substrate type(s) in the unit,

- the wave exposure as indicated by the bands, and

- the substrate types in the unit.

Legend Definitions

CC - Coastal Classification number

Wave Exposure

E - Exposed - High wave exposure, open ocean swellism usually fetches >500km

VE - Very Exposed - Extreme high wave exposure

SE - Semi Exposed - High wave exposure, open shorelines, areas between fully exposed and more sheltered, usually fetches 50 to 500km

P - Protected - Low wave exposure, sheltered inlets, usually fetches less than 10km

SP - Semi Protected - Moderate wave exposure, partly sheltered, usually fetches 10-50km

VP - Very Protected - Very low wave exposure, fetches < 1km, sheltered anchorages at heads of bays and inlets

**Table SOG\_GOES with SSOG and NSOG, part of CR**  
Habitat Classification for "Exposure Bio" (EXP\_BIO) and "Habitat Observed" (HAB\_OBS) based on visible macro-biota assemblages for the Georgia Basin. Species assemblages revised according to analysis of field observations. See summary in Table 5 and Table 6.

MAJOR SUBSTRATE	BEDROCK/BOULDER	BEDROCK/BOULDER	BEDROCK/BOULDER	SAND & GRAVEL	SAND & GRAVEL	SAND/MUD	BEDROCK/SEDIMENT
COASTAL CLASSES	1-20	1-23, 32, 33	1-23, 33	24, 25, 26, 32	24, 25, 26, 32	27, 28, 29, 30, 31	24 - 30
EXPOSURE (EXP_BIO)	SE	SP	P, VP	SP	P, VP	SP, P, VP	SB, E
HABITAT OBSERVED (HAB_OBS)	3 *	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Forecoral	Forecoral	Forecoral	Forecoral	Forecoral	Forecoral	Bedrock & rocks
	Rocky slope						
	Face as shelter						
	middle						
	Sandstone coralline						
	Mitella brevistylis						
	Ascidia glomerata						
	Gobius Gobius						
	middle						
	Ascidia glomerata						
	Gobius Gobius						
	upper						
	Chthamalus stellatus						
	lower						
	Platostoma heterodon						
	upper						
	Leptoclinides regularis						
	lower						
	Leptoclinides regularis						
	upper						
	Zosteria marina						
	subtidal						
	Sargassum muticum						
	upper						
	Merluccius productus						
	upper						
	Nereis virens						
	upper						
	Strongylocentrotus						
	upper						
	Zostera marina						
	upper						

\* The SE (Semi-exposed) shoreline "Habitat Observed" in the Strait of Georgia was observed to have the same species assemblage as typical species assemblages found in high SP (semi-protected).

\*\* Sargassum does not occur in Very-protected (VP).

