



# 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

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.

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How is Habitat Type determined?  
Each Habitat Type has typical biological features (including both an indicator species list and typical associated biogeands).

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.  records the observations of the biobands in the unit and looks for indicator species,  
2.  assigns a bio-(wave) exposure category

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3.  reviews the physical mapped information, and
4.  assigns the Habitat Type that best describes the unit

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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.

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

- the blobands observed,
- the wave exposure as indicated by the bands, and
- the substrate types in the unit.

- the substrate types in the unit.

**Legend Definitions**  
CC - Cassette Classification number

CC - Coastal Classification number

**E<sub>w</sub>** Exposed - Very high wave exposure, open ocean swell can usually fetches >500km.

E - Exposed - Very high wave exposure, open ocean swell usually fetches >500km  
VE - Very Exposed - Extreme high wave exposure

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

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

SP - Semi Protected - Moderate wave exposure, partly sheltered, usually fetches 10-30km  
VP - Very Protected - Very low wave exposure, fetches < 1km, sheltered anchorages at heads of bays and inlets

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Species/ wave exposure/ substrate table for Habitat Classification (HAB_OBS), for the Mid-coast BC study area, from Johnstone Strait/Central Coast Mapping Regions 5, 6 and 7.													
SUBSTRATE STABILITY	IMMOBILE SUBSTRATES				MOBILE OR PARTIALLY MOBILE SUBSTRATES				CURRENT-DOMINATED	TIDAL LAGOON			
	MAJOR SUBSTRATE	BEDROCK	BEDROCK/BOULDER	BEDROCK/GRAVEL	BEDROCK/GRAVEL	SAND & GRAVEL	SAND & GRAVEL	SAND/MUD	SEDIMENT				
COASTAL CLASSES	1-20	1-23, 32, 33	1-23, 33	1-23, 33	24 – 30, 32 no SAL band	24 – 30, 32 no SAL band	24 - 30, 31 has SAL band	24-30	34	35			
EXPOSURE (EXP BIO)	E	SE	SP	VP, P	SP	VP, P	VP, P, SP	SE, E	VP, P, SP	VP, P, SP			
COMMUNITY CODE (HAB OBS)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>			
upper	<i>Verrucaria</i> <i>Enteromorpha</i>	<i>Verrucaria</i> <i>Enteromorpha</i>	<i>Verrucaria</i> <i>Enteromorpha</i>	<i>Verrucaria</i> <i>Enteromorpha</i>	<i>Verrucaria</i> <i>Enteromorpha</i>	<i>Verrucaria</i> <i>Enteromorpha</i>	grasses & rushes <i>Salicornia virginica</i>	no visible macrobiota due to sediment mobility	tidal current dominated; may be a Protected wave exposure but shows an assemblage of indicator species from higher wave exposures. Assemblage observed is 'anomalous' for the wave energy of the site.	<i>Balanus glandula</i> <i>Fucus distichus</i>			
	<i>Balanus glandula</i> <i>Fucus distichus</i>	<i>Balanus glandula</i> <i>Fucus distichus</i>	<i>Balanus glandula</i> <i>Fucus distichus</i>	<i>Balanus glandula</i> <i>Fucus distichus</i>	<i>Balanus glandula</i> <i>Fucus distichus</i>	<i>Balanus glandula</i> <i>Fucus distichus</i>	<i>Balanus glandula</i> <i>Fucus distichus</i>						
middle	<i>Pollicipes polymerus</i> <i>Mytilus californianus</i>	<i>Mytilus californianus</i>	<i>Mytilus trossulus*</i>	<i>Mytilus trossulus*</i>	<i>Mytilus trossulus**</i>								
	<i>Semibalanus cariosus</i>	<i>Semibalanus cariosus</i>	<i>Semibalanus cariosus</i>	<i>Ulva/ Ulvaria spp.</i>	<i>Ulva/ Ulvaria spp.</i>	<i>Ulva/ Ulvaria spp.</i>	<i>Ulva/ Ulvaria spp.</i>						
mid/low	<i>Hedophyllum sessile</i> <i>Alaria 'nana' morph</i> <i>Phyllospadix scouleri</i>									ponded water in lagoon creates narrow intertidal and a reduced biota in brackish water, may have associated current dominated at outflow			
lower	<i>Lessoniopsis littoralis</i>	<i>Laminaria groenlandica</i>	<i>Laminaria saccharina</i>	<i>Laminaria saccharina</i>	<i>Laminaria groenlandica</i>	<i>Laminaria saccharina</i>	<i>Laminaria saccharina</i>						
	<i>Alaria 'marginata' morph</i> <i>Lithothamnion</i>	<i>Lithothamnion</i>	<i>Lithothamnion</i>										
subtidal	<i>Nereocystis luetkeana</i>	<i>Nereocystis luetkeana</i>	<i>Macrocystis integrifolia</i>	<i>Agarum spp.</i>	<i>Nereocystis luetkeana</i>	<i>Macrocystis integrifolia</i>	<i>Macrocystis integrifolia</i>						
	<i>Strongylocentrotus franciscanus</i>					<i>Strongylocentrotus franciscanus</i>	<i>Agarum spp.</i>	<i>Strongylocentrotus franciscanus</i>					

