



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.

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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?

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

2. assigns a bio-(wave) exposure category,
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.

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

- the biobands observed,
- the wave exposure as indicated by the bands, and

- the substrate types in the unit.

Legend Definitions
CC - Coastal Classification number

Wave Exposure

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

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

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