



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?

1. Determining the Habitat Type, the biomapper looks at the along-shore Units as designated and described by the physical mapper, and identifies the presence of 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 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 swell 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 MIDCOAST and NORTH COAST project area which includes BIO AREAS CC, JS and NC. The Species/ wave exposure/substrate table for Habitat Classification (HAB_OHS), 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 BIROCK OR SEDIMENT	TIDAL IAGOON BIROCK OR SEDIMENT	
	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	24 - 30, 32	24 - 30, 31	24 - 30, 31	24-30	34	35
EXPOSURE	E	SE	SP	VP, P	SP	VP, P	VP, P, SP	SE, E	VP, P, SP	VP, P, SP	
COMMUNITY CODE	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
old code											
upper	Verrucaria	Verrucaria	Verrucaria	Verrucaria	Verrucaria	Verrucaria	Verrucaria	grasses & rushes			
	Enteromorpha	Enteromorpha	Enteromorpha	Enteromorpha	Enteromorpha	Enteromorpha	Enteromorpha	algae			
	Balanus glandula	Balanus glandula	Balanus glandula	Balanus glandula	Balanus glandula	Balanus glandula	Balanus glandula	vegatation			
	Fucus distichus	Fucus distichus	Fucus distichus	Fucus distichus	Fucus distichus	Fucus distichus	Fucus distichus	Fucus distichus			
middle	Palicourea polymorpha	Mytilis californianus	Mytilis californianus	Mytilis californianus	Mytilis californianus	Mytilis californianus	Mytilis californianus	grass & rushes			
	Mytilis californianus	Semibalanus cariosus	Semibalanus cariosus	Semibalanus cariosus	Semibalanus cariosus	Semibalanus cariosus	Semibalanus cariosus	algae			
		Utricularia spp.	Utricularia spp.	Utricularia spp.	Utricularia spp.	Utricularia spp.	Utricularia spp.	vegatation			
mid-low	Azolla namei morph	Hedophyllum setosum	Utricularia spp.	Utricularia spp.	Utricularia spp.	Utricularia spp.	Utricularia spp.	Utricularia spp.			
		Phyllospadix scouleri									
lower	Lessonia littoralis		Laminaria groenlandica	Laminaria saccharina	Laminaria saccharina	Laminaria saccharina	Laminaria saccharina				
			Alaria marginata morph	Alaria marginata morph	Alaria marginata morph	Alaria marginata morph	Alaria marginata morph				
			Lithothamnion	Lithothamnion	Lithothamnion	Lithothamnion	Lithothamnion				
subtidal	Neorocystis lawmanae	Macrocystis integrifolia	Macrocystis integrifolia	Macrocystis integrifolia	Macrocystis integrifolia	Macrocystis integrifolia	Macrocystis integrifolia				
		Agarum spp.	Agarum spp.	Agarum spp.	Agarum spp.	Agarum spp.	Agarum spp.				
		Strongylomastix franciscanus	Strongylomastix franciscanus	Strongylomastix franciscanus	Strongylomastix franciscanus	Strongylomastix franciscanus	Strongylomastix franciscanus				
		Zostera marina	Zostera marina	Zostera marina	Zostera marina	Zostera marina	Zostera marina				

