



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

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 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 MIDCOAST and NORTH COAST project area which includes BIO AREAS CC, JS and NC.

The 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 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	BEDROCK OR SEDIMENT	BEDROCK OR SEDIMENT
COASTAL CLASSES	1-20	1-23, 32, 33	1-23, 33	1-23, 33	1-23, 33	24 - 30, 32	24 - 30, 32	24 - 30, 31	no SAL band	24-30, 31	34
EXPOSURE	E	SE	SP	VP, P	SP	VP, P	VP, P, SP	SE, E	VP, P, SP	VP, P, SP	35
COMMUNITY CODE	2	Semibalanus cariosus	Fucus distichus	Fucus distichus	Fucus distichus	Verrucaria	Verrucaria	grasses & rushes	algae & seagrass	Balanus glandula	
old code						Environicaria	Environicaria	vegatation	vegatation	Fucus distichus	
upper		Balanus glandula	Balanus glandula	Balanus glandula	Balanus glandula						
middle		Polyplex polymers	Mytilis californiana	Mytilis californiana	Mytilis californiana						
		Mytilis californiana	Semibalanus cariosus	Semibalanus cariosus	Semibalanus cariosus						
			Urae Uvoria spp.	Urae Uvoria spp.	Urae Uvoria spp.						
mid-low											
lower											
subtidal											

