

## Marine Invertebrates – Important Habitat 3 – Sandy Substrate in the Intertidal Zone

### description

Marine invertebrates include a wide variety of both sessile (immobile) and mobile organisms that can be found in a diverse range of habitats. Sandy habitats may not provide a solid substrate, however many marine invertebrates are able to anchor themselves or seek shelter by burrowing in the sand. At the BC Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA) Marine Invertebrate Experts Workshop, sandy substrates in the intertidal zone were identified because they provide habitat for distinct invertebrate communities.

This atlas page illustrates a subset of the 36 different coastal classes derived from the BC Shorezone Mapping system, a systematic methodology for mapping the biophysical character of the Shorezone by way of aerial low tide oblique surveys for the entire BC coastline. Coastal Classes are derived from the BC Shorezone Mapping system, a systematic methodology for mapping the biophysical character of the Shorezone by way of aerial low tide oblique surveys for the entire BC coastline. The system involves the subdivision of the Shorezone into along-shore units and across-shore components. Coastal Classes are an overall indicator of repeatable collections of across-shore components contained within the unit defined by a systematic consideration of substrate, sediment, width and slope. This surrogate feature for invertebrate habitat has been created by querying the coastal classes where sand exposed at high tides are described as a major substrate feature.

The coastal classes included are as follows:

- Rock Ramp with Sand Beach Wide
- Rock Platform with Sand Beach Wide
- Rock Cliff with Sand Beach Wide
- Rock Ramp with Sand Beach Narrow
- Rock Platform with Sand Beach Narrow
- Sand and Gravel Flat or Fan Wide
- Sand and Gravel Beach Narrow
- Sand and Gravel Flat or Fan Narrow
- Sand Beach Wide
- Sand Flat Wide
- Sand Beach Narrow



PHOTO: RIKE PHOTOS

### data sources

- Province of British Columbia – Shorezone Mapping System

### data resolution

- Data from the BC Shorezone Mapping System is linked to shoreline segments that average approximately 400 metres in length. There are a total of 90,027 shoreline segments with some attribute information.

### date collected

- 1979-2008

### date compiled

- 2009

### reviewers

- Not reviewed.

### reviewer comments

- None provided.

### caveats of use

- Recommended date of expiry for use of these data in a marine planning context: None provided.

### map, feature data and metadata access

- Visit [www.bcmca.ca/data](http://www.bcmca.ca/data) for more information.

### references

- For more detailed information on the Coastal Classes of British Columbia as described in the BC Shorezone Mapping System (March 1995) see: [www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/risc/pubs/coastal/pysshore/index.htm](http://www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/risc/pubs/coastal/pysshore/index.htm)




# BCMCA Atlas

## Marine Invertebrates

### Important Habitat 3

#### Legend

 Sandy Substrate in the Intertidal Zone

Note:  
- Thickness of shorezone segments has been exaggerated slightly to increase visibility at this scale.  
- This dataset consists of coastal classes recommended as a surrogate for invertebrate habitat including:

- Rock Ramp with Sand Beach Wide
- Rock Platform with Sand Beach Wide
- Rock Cliff with Sand Beach Wide
- Rock Ramp with Sand Beach Narrow
- Rock Platform with Sand Beach Narrow
- Sand and Gravel Flat or Fan Wide
- Sand and Gravel Beach Narrow
- Sand and Gravel Flat or Fan Narrow
- Sand Beach Wide
- Sand Flat Wide
- Sand Beach Narrow

#### Data Sources:

Province of British Columbia - Shorezone Mapping System

#### Base Data:

ESRI Base Data, GeoBase, GeoBC, NOAA, Natural Resources Canada, USGS, Washington State Government

#### Thematic Data:

For more information on data sources and methods please refer to the facing page to this map

Projection: BC Albers NAD83

0 25 50 75 100 125 150

Kilometres

0 25 50 75

Nautical Miles

1:4,250,000 \*

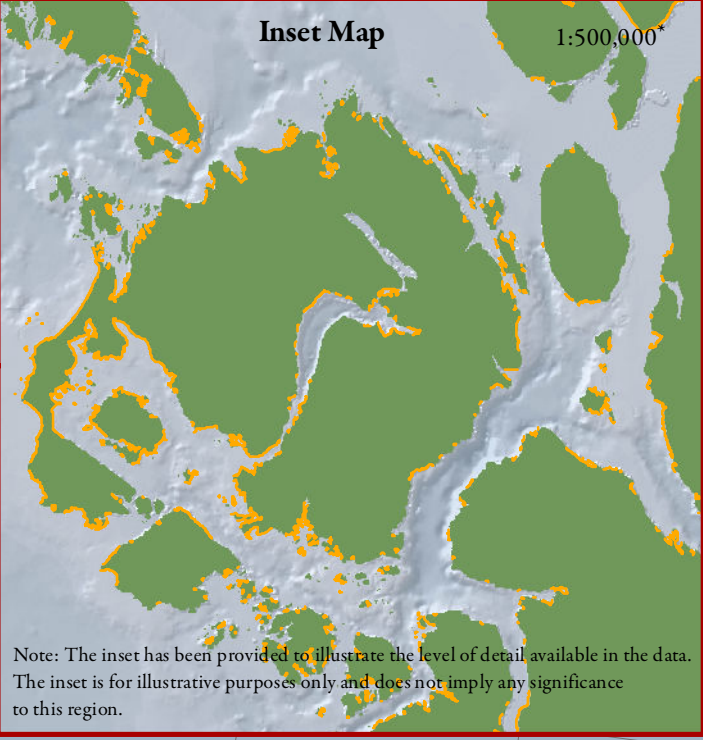
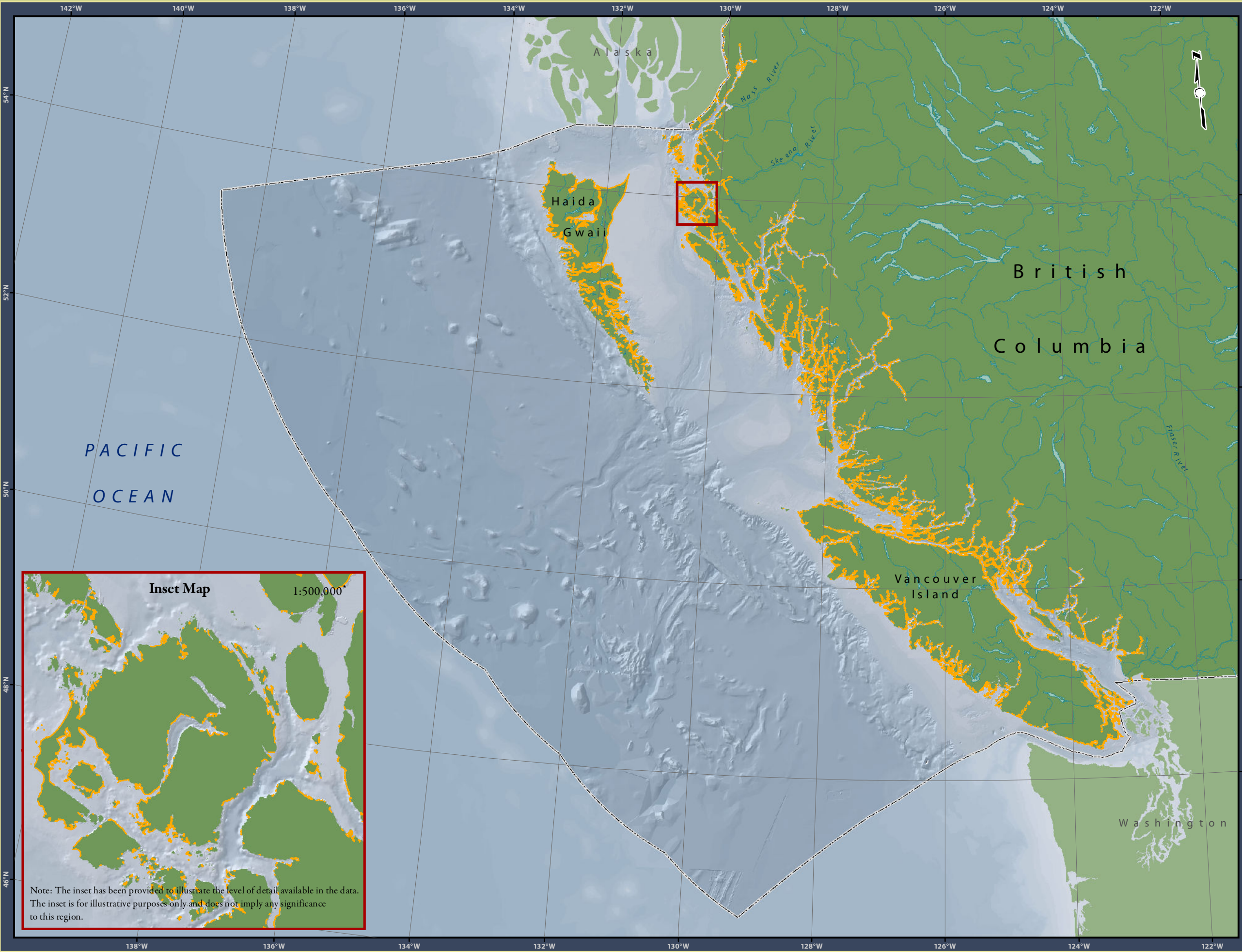
\* Written scales are approximate and are based on a 11 x 17 inch paper size.

Prepared for:



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.

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Note: The inset has been provided to illustrate the level of detail available in the data. The inset is for illustrative purposes only and does not imply any significance to this region.