

Marine Invertebrates – Important Habitat 4 – Mudflats Adjacent To Estuaries

description

Marine invertebrates include a wide variety of both sessile (immobile) and mobile organisms that can be found in a diverse range of habitats. Intertidal mud flats adjacent to estuaries are distinguished by shallow-sloped shorelines, with expanses of fine sediment that are flooded with each high tide. Mudflats are an important habitat because many marine invertebrates rely on them directly for habitat, or indirectly for prey. At the BC Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA) Marine Invertebrate Experts Workshop, mudflats adjacent to estuaries 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 identifying the shoreline segments of the 'Mud Flat Wide' coastal class that were within 100 metres of the estuary polygons developed by the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program (PECP). Please see the atlas page titled "Marine Plants – Estuaries" for more information on the PECP estuary dataset.

The coastal class included is Mud Flat Wide.



PHOTO: MIKE AMBACH

data sources

- Pacific Estuary Conservation Program – Estuaries (data used in the preparation of this feature).
- 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 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

BCMCA Atlas
Marine Invertebrates
Important Habitat 4

Legend

-  Mudflats Adjacent to Estuaries

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:
 Mud Flat Wide

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.