

## Marine Plants – Salt Marsh Bioband

### description

This feature is represented by the two biobands from the BC Shorezone mapping system, both of which represent salt marsh vegetation. The *Salicornia* bioband is named for the bioband indicator species ‘goose grass’ or ‘pickleweed’ (*Salicornia virginica*), and the occurrence of this bioband is used to represent the Salt Marsh assemblage of marsh grasses, dune grass, sedges and other salt-tolerant herbaceous plants. The salt marsh assemblage occurs in the supratidal and upper intertidal and often indicates estuarine locations. In certain areas of the coast and in more recent surveys, a dune grass bioband has been mapped in addition to the *Salicornia* bioband. For consistency across the province-wide analysis, those records have been combined with the *Salicornia*.

This atlas page illustrates bioband information 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. The marine flora and fauna visible within a shore unit are described in terms of common species assemblages known as biobands. The biobands are defined by the dominant cover species. This feature displays the shoreline units where salt marsh and/or dune grass biobands were observed and coverage was rated as either ‘patchy’ (visible in less than 50% of the shore unit) or ‘continuous’ (visible in greater than 50% of the shore unit).



PHOTO: EKATERINA POKROVSKY



PHOTO: MICHAEL HAWKES

### data sources

- Province of British Columbia - Shorezone Mapping System - Bioband

### 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

- Cynthia Durance, Precision Identification
- Brad Mason, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Community Mapping Network
- Mary Morris, Archipelago Marine Research Ltd.

### reviewer comments

- There are data gaps in the Strait of Georgia, for bioband mapping outside of the newly completed Gulf Islands area. In particular, the east side of the Strait south of Lund is conspicuously blank of bands. This data gap needs to be accounted for in the analyses.
- Displaying both the dune grass bioband and the *Salicornia* bioband here is appropriate because most of BC has only the *Salicornia* band mapped. The older mapping included dune grass with the *Salicornia* band. *Salicornia* band is defined as “salt tolerant herbs, grasses and sedges” and includes dune grass, *Salicornia*, and other salt-tolerant herbs and grasses.

### caveats of use

- No biological data were collected with the original Shorezone classification in the Strait of Georgia, and therefore the coverage of the *Salicornia* bioband attribute is a data gap in the Strait of Georgia region. The coastline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, west of Victoria is also a data gap.
- 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.

### map, feature data and metadata access

- For more detailed information on the biological component of the BC Shorezone Mapping System (March 1995) see: [www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/risc/pubs/coastal/bioshore/index.htm](http://www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/risc/pubs/coastal/bioshore/index.htm)



**BCMCA Atlas**  
**Marine Plants**  
**Salt Marsh Bioband**

**Legend**

 Salt Marsh Bioband

**Data Sources:**

Province of British Columbia - Shorezone Mapping System

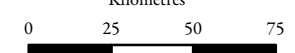
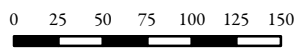
**Base Data:**

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



1:4,250,000 \*

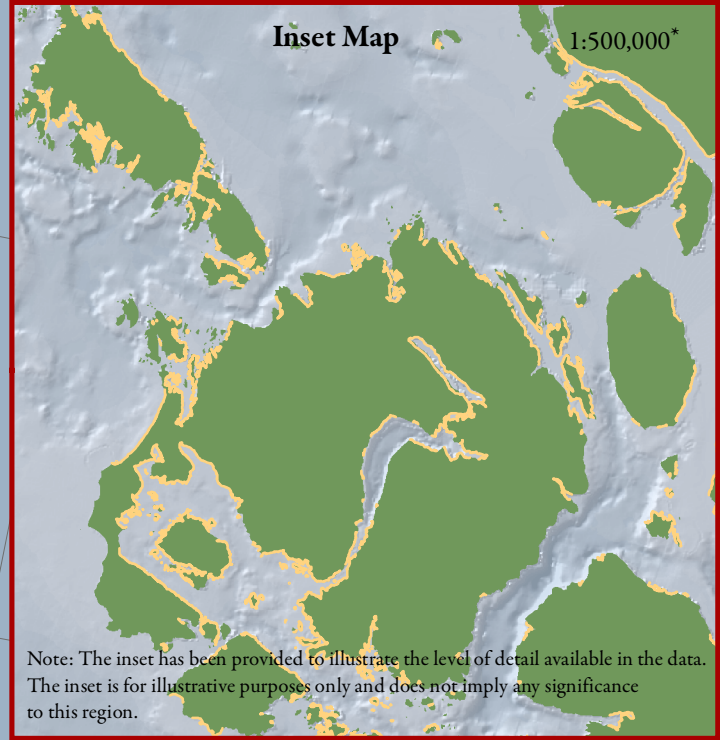
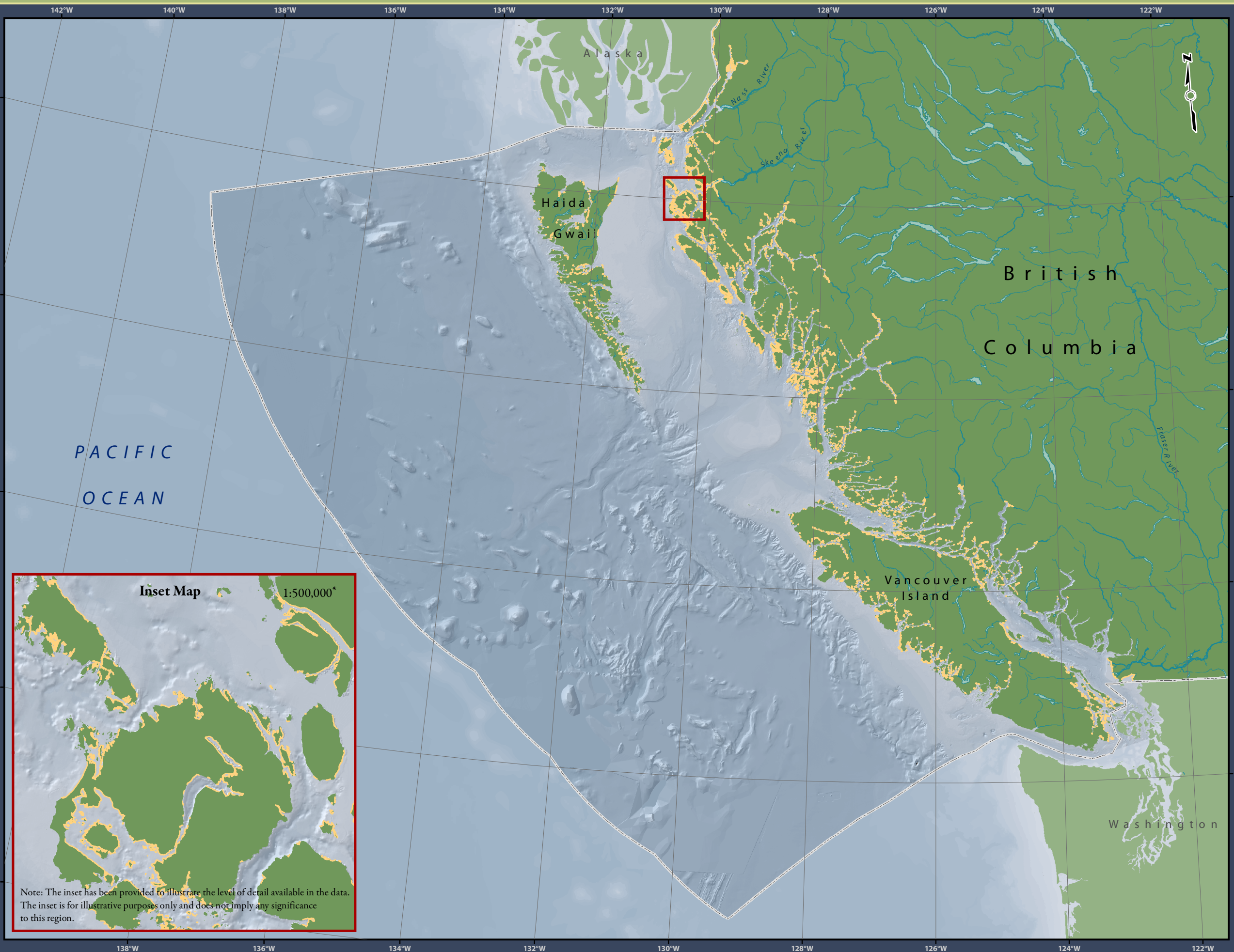
\* Written scales are approximate and are based on a 11 x 17 inch paper size.

Prepared for:



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.

August 18, 2010



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.