

Marine Birds – Shorebird Staging Areas - Rocky

description

Shorebirds frequently migrate long distances. Staging areas are resource-rich sites along migratory paths that provide the birds access to food and a place to rest and clean their feathers. Because there are few places that provide the right combination of resources, some sites may host the majority of the population of a species at some point during their migration.

This atlas page depicts observations of Surfbird (*Aphriza virgata*) as a surrogate for rocky staging areas. This species was recommended by experts to represent the rocky staging areas as it is less widely distributed than other shorebirds that also use rocky staging areas (e.g. Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone and Rock Sandpiper). Source data used to develop this map consisted of a range of surveys, which were focused on identifying, counting and recording marine birds. The majority of the surveys were conducted at sites with defined boundaries and areas.



PHOTO: STEVE ESTVANIK



PHOTO: ASH

data sources

- Bird Studies Canada – Coastal Waterbird Survey

data resolution

- Unknown

data collected

- 1990-2008

date compiled

- 2009

reviewers

- Peter Davidson and Rob Butler, Bird Studies Canada
- Gary Kaiser, Consultant
- Representatives from Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service

reviewer comments

- Surfbirds (SURF) collect on specific small islands in very large numbers at a few sites compared to the population estimates for BC: Baeria Rocks, a small island off Powell River, etc.
- Staging areas illustrated may be more accurately called “stop over areas.” Staging areas are places birds stay for long periods whereas stop over areas are places where they remain for a few days. Most of the areas illustrated fit in the latter category.
- Surfbirds congregate in flocks at relatively fewer small islands and hard substrate mainland sites than other shorebirds that are also rocky shore specialists, e.g. Black Oystercatcher and Black Turnstone, which are more widely distributed and tolerate a broader range of hard substrate types.

caveats of use

- Gaps in distribution should not be inferred to be an absence of the species, but more likely a lack of survey effort/coverage. Some locations may still be important as rocky staging areas but currently lack associated data to confirm their value.
- 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.

BCMCA Atlas
Marine Birds
Shorebird Staging Areas
- Rocky

Legend

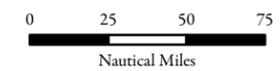
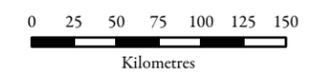
 Areas where Surfbirds were observed

Data Sources:
 Bird Studies Canada

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*

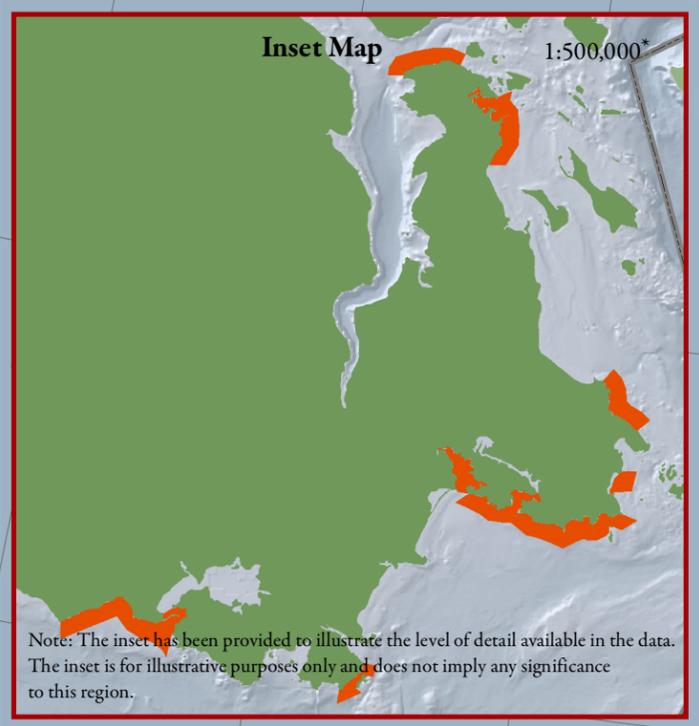
* Written scales are approximate and are based on a 11 x 17 inch paper size.

Prepared for:



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.

August 19, 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.