Physical Representation - Coastal Classes

This atlas page illustrates a summary of shore morphology and substrate in terms of 36 different coastal classes. 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.

**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.

**date collected**
- 1979-2008

**date compiled**
- 2009

**reviewers**
- Kim Conway, Natural Resources Canada
- Zach Ferdana, The Nature Conservancy
- Carol Ogborne, BC Integrated Land Management Bureau

**reviewer comments**
- None provided.

**caveats of use**
- Please note that although there are 36 distinct coastal classes, several classes have been combined for illustrative purposes only. The complete list of classes is shown above. It should also be noted that although the Province of BC describes “hanging lagoon” as a coastal class, it is not present within the BC Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA) study area and is therefore not shown in the atlas page.

**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 biological component of the BC Shorezone Mapping System (March 1995) see: [www.dnb.gov.bc.ca/rsc/pubs/coastal/bioshore/index.htm](http://www.dnb.gov.bc.ca/rsc/pubs/coastal/bioshore/index.htm)