

# Physical Representation - Coastal Classes

## description

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.

Rock Ramp Wide	Rock Ramp with Sand Beach Narrow
Rock Platform Wide	Rock Platform with Sand Beach Narrow
Rock Cliff Narrow	Gravel Flat Wide
Rock Ramp Narrow	Gravel Beach Narrow
Rock Platform Narrow	Gravel Flat or Fan Narrow
Rock Ramp with Gravel Beach Wide	Sand and Gravel Flat or Fan Wide
Rock Platform with Gravel Beach Wide	Sand and Gravel Beach Narrow
Rock Cliff with Gravel Beach Narrow	Sand and Gravel Flat or Fan Narrow
Rock Ramp with Gravel Beach Narrow	Sand Beach Wide
Rock Platform with Sand and Gravel Beach Narrow	Sand Flat Wide
Rock Ramp with Sand and Gravel Beach Wide	Mud Flat Wide
Rock Platform with Sand and Gravel Beach Wide	Sand Beach Narrow
Rock Cliff with Sand and Gravel Beach Narrow	Estuary Organics and Fines
Rock Ramp with Sand and Gravel Beach Narrow	Man made permeable
Rock Platform with Sand and Gravel Beach Narrow	Man made impermeable
Rock Ramp with Sand Beach Wide	Hanging Lagoon
Rock Platform with Sand Beach Wide	Channel
Rock Platform with Sand Beach Wide	Undefined





### 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 for more information.

## references

• 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

www.bcmca.ca Marine Atlas of Pacific Canada

