

## Basic Information

*This section contains basic information about the dataset, suitable for a minimal metadata entry.*

**Title:** Important Areas for Other Vertebrates in West Coast Vancouver Island Ecoregion

**Dataset ID:** ia-othervert-wcvi

**Quality Control:** Completed

**Summary:** This layer details Important Areas (IAs) relevant to key vertebrate species, other than fish and cetaceans, in the West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI) ecoregion. This data was mapped to inform the selection of marine Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA). Experts have indicated that these areas are relevant based upon their high ranking in one or more of three criteria (Uniqueness, Aggregation, and Fitness Consequences). The distribution of IAs within ecoregions is used in the designation of EBSAs.

Canada's Oceans Act provides the legislative framework for an integrated ecosystem approach to management in Canadian oceans, particularly in areas considered ecologically or biologically significant. DFO has developed general guidance for the identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas. The criteria for defining such areas include uniqueness, aggregation, fitness consequences, resilience, and naturalness. This science advisory process identifies proposed EBSAs in Canadian Pacific marine waters, specifically in the Strait of Georgia (SOG), along the west coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI, southern shelf ecoregion), and in the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA, northern shelf ecoregion).

Initial assessment of IAs in PNCIMA was carried out in September 2004 to March 2005 with spatial data collection coordinated by Cathryn Clarke. Subsequent efforts in WCVI and SOG were conducted in 2009, and may have used different scientific advisors, temporal extents, data, and assessment methods. WCVI and SOG IA assessment in some cases revisits data collected for PNCIMA, but should be treated as a separate effort.

Other datasets in this series detail IAs for birds, cetaceans, coral and sponges, fish, geographic features, and invertebrates.

Though data collection is considered complete, the emergence of significant new data may merit revisiting of IAs on a case by case basis.

**Maintainer Email:** Joanne.Lessard@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Cite this data as:** ERROR GENERATING CITATION. Please complete this field manually. Required field Data Creator name is missing.

**Start Date:** 2008-10-01

**End Date:** 2009-10-30

## Contact Information

*This section contains contact information for the data creator and program manager.*

### Data Creator:

Name: Original data creator is unknown

Email: cole.fields@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Position: Original data creator is unknown  
Organization: Original data creator is unknown  
Address: Original data creator is unknown  
Phone: Original data creator is unknown

**Co-Creators:** Chantal Levesque, Glen Jamieson, Linda Nichol, Lisa Spaven, and Peter Olesiuk

**Program Manager:**

Name: Joanne Lessard  
Email: Joanne.Lessard@dfo-mpo.gc.ca  
Position: Program Head  
Organization: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Biological Station  
Address: 3190 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, British Columbia, V9R 5K6, Canada  
Phone: 250-729-8364

**General**

*General metadata compatible with the Canada Open Data metadata standard.*

**Topic Category:** Biota

**Date Completed:** 2009-10-30

**Date Published:** 2020-01-13

**Status:** Completed

**Update Frequency:** Not Planned

**Dataset Level:** Series

**Keywords (GoC Thesaurus):** environmental quality, environmental planning, ecology, marine ecosystems, birds

**Science**

*This section contains metadata specific to the Science branch at DFO.*

**Science Keywords:** important areas, british columbia, ia, west coast vancouver island, ebsa

**Theme:** Coastal Species or Ecosystem

**Methods:** Researchers with expertise for key vertebrate taxa, other than fish and cetaceans, drew polygons on paper map to denote Important Areas for species that met a priori criteria. The experts' hand-drawn polygons were heads-up digitized using ArcView 9.2 on a CHS coastline watershed basemap. Hand-drawn polygons were clipped by the U.S.- Canadian border, the PNCIMA and Offshore Ecoregion boundary polygons provided by OHEB-GIS unit. The layers of individual experts were shared among all the experts for the species grouping. Experts were asked to provide confirmation and to check for accuracy and completeness. Any changes requested by the experts were performed and again returned to the experts for vetting.

The experts consulted are: Linda Nichol: sea otter Lisa Spaven: leatherback sea turtle Peter Olesiuk: harbour seal, northern fur seal and Steller sea lion

The dataset was updated in 2019 to conform to MSEA's GIS Hub publication standards. The IA data series was split into taxonomic themes (birds, cetaceans, fish, coral and sponges, other invertebrates, and geographic features). The Check Geometry tool was used to validate each layer.

**Data Sources:**

Source: Paper maps, March 2005, by Linda Nichol, Peter Olesiuk, and Lisa Spaven

**Scripts or Software Routines:** Data was digitized from paper maps in ArcView 9.2, using polygons which were hand-drawn upon maps by experts.

**Spatial Data Quality:** Location data is typically digitized from paper charts and snapped to geographic features such as coast-lines. Accuracy of locations designated is limited by expert knowledge of available research at time of publication.

**Positional Accuracy:** Positional accuracy is dependent on the expert responsible for polygon creation. Polygons were clipped using the U.S.- Canadian border, the PNCIMA and Offshore Ecoregion boundary polygons provided by OHEB-GIS unit.

**Attribute Accuracy:** This information is a one-time summary of the available expert knowledge.

**Logical Consistency:** All features are rated by standard criteria across the WCVI IA's, though multiple experts are used for different IA's and ratings are selected based upon their knowledge. Some layers use differing scoring standards (ie 1 to 10 or low, medium, high), but no conversion method is provided between them. The experts themselves may have used a variety of study methods and literature to determine what areas are important to given taxa. Less information may have been available for particular taxa at time of publication. More easily studied taxa (eg those occurring in more accessible geography and water depth) may have better data.

**Completeness:** This information is a one-time summary of the available expert knowledge.

**Absence Data:** No absence data

**Uncertainties:** Criteria scores are subjective ratings assigned by experts based upon their understanding of their best available data. A note in the literature states that leatherback sea turtle sightings are infrequent and widespread and its thus difficult to draw conclusion about specific areas of significance.

**Use Restrictions:** This data was created to inform the selection of EBSAs. Not for navigational purposes. Criteria may be unsuitable for other forms of assessment.

**Change History:**

Date of Change	Description of Change
----------------	-----------------------

**Species Code List:**

- 852 - CALLORHINUS URSINUS (NORTHERN FUR SEAL), Targeted
- 853 - EUMETOPIAS JUBATUS (STELLER SEA LION), Targeted
- 856 – PHOCA VITULINA (HARBOUR SEAL), Targeted

859 - ENHYDRA LUTRIS (SEA OTTER), Targeted  
975 - DERMOCHELYS CORIACEA (LEATHERBACK TURTLE), Targeted

**Species Data:**

Code and Name	Age Data	Obs Type
852 - CALLORHINUS URSINUS (NORTHERN FUR SEAL)		Targeted
853 - EUMETOPIAS JUBATUS (STELLER SEA LION)		Targeted
856 - PHOCA VITULINA (HARBOUR SEAL)		Targeted
859 - ENHYDRA LUTRIS (SEA OTTER)		Targeted
975 - DERMOCHELYS CORIACEA (LEATHERBACK TURTLE)		Targeted

**References:**

Reference: Clarke, C.L., and G. S. Jamieson. 2006a. Identification of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas in the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area: Phase I - Identification of Important Areas. 2678: 97 p.

Reference: Clarke, C.L., and G. S. Jamieson. 2006b. Identification of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas for the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area: Phase II - Final Report. 2686: 32 p.

Reference: DFO. 2004. Identification of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas. DFO Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat Ecosystem Status Report 2004/006: 15 p.

Reference: DFO. 2007. Guidance Document on Identifying Conservation Priorities and Phrasing Conservation Objectives for Large Ocean Management Areas. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Sci. Advis. Rep. 2007/010.

Reference: Jamieson, G.S. and C. Levesque. 2014. Identification of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas on the West Coast of Vancouver Island and the Strait of Georgia, and in some nearshore areas on the North Coast: Phase II – Designation of EBSAs. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Res. Doc. 2014/101: 36 p.

**Collaboration:** No collaboration outside of DFO.

**Confidentiality:** Not Protected