

Abyssal plain	Any of the large flat areas of deep ocean floor.	Continental slope	The gently sloping submerged land near the coastline that forms the side of an ocean basin.
Anadromous	Referring to the life cycle of fishes, such as salmon, in which adults travel upriver from the sea to breed, usually returning to the area where they were born.	COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
Ballast	A heavy substance placed in such a way as to improve stability and control of a vessel.	CPUE	Catch per unit effort
Bathymetry	The measurement of depths of water in oceans, seas and lakes; also the information derived from such measurements.	Cumulative effects	The combined effect of more than one action or project.
BC	British Columbia	CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service (directorate of Environment Canada)
Benthic	Occurring at the bottom of a body of water.	DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (formerly Department of Fisheries and Oceans)
Benthic Position Index	A position-based measure, calculated to provide an indication of how flat (plains, slopes), convex (ridge-like) or concave (valley-like) the seafloor is at any given point. Areas of consistent slope will have BPI values approaching zero, convex areas will be highly positive and concave areas will be highly negative.	DWT	Dead weight tonnes
Bioband	Species assemblage, observable as a band within a body of water.	EBSA	Ecologically and biologically significant area
Biomass	The total mass of all living organisms or of a particular set of organisms in an ecosystem or at a certain level in a food chain; usually expressed as a dry weight or as the carbon, nitrogen, or caloric content per unit area.	EC	Environment Canada
Bituminous coal	The most abundant form of coal; “soft coal”.	Echinoderm	Any of the phylum of marine animals known as Echinodermata. Examples include sea stars, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers. They possess a fluid-filled body cavity, an interior calcium carbonate skeleton and a system of water-filled canals and muscular tube feet for locomotion, food gathering and attachment. As adults, they show five-part radial symmetry.
Bivalve	A mollusc whose body is enclosed by two hinged valves or shells.	Ecoregion	An ecoregion classification was developed in BC to provide a systematic view of the small scale ecological relationships in the province. It is based on climatic processes and landforms, and brings into focus the extent of critical habitats and their relationship with adjacent areas.
BPI	Benthic Position Index	Ecotype	A subdivision of a species consisting of a population that is adapted to a particular set of environmental conditions.
Catch ceiling	Limitations or quotas on the total quantity of fish that can be captured for a specific fishery, time and area.	Ecounit	A unit of ecological classification identified by the BC Marine Ecological Classification, a hierarchical ecological mapping system for use in marine planning, conservation and protection. The classification identifies 12 provincial marine ecoregions based on physical, oceanographic and biological characteristics, and a number of smaller ecounits, based on depth, current, exposure, relief, salinity, slope, stratification, substrate, and temperature.
CBCYC	Council of British Columbia Yacht Clubs	EEZ	Exclusive economic zone (see definition below)
CCG	Canadian Coast Guard	Escapement	The number of fish returning to spawning grounds to reproduce. Escapement goals are used to manage fishing opportunities (e.g. for salmon).
CEPA	Canadian Environmental Protection Act		
Chlorophyll	A class of green pigments that are the receptors of light energy in photosynthesis. Chlorophyll <i>a</i> is the pigment directly involved in the transformation of light energy into chemical energy.		
CHS	Canadian Hydrographic Service		
Continental rise	A wide, gentle incline from an ocean bottom to a continental slope.		
Continental shelf	A flat, projecting extension of land submerged beneath a shallow sea.		

Estuary	A semi-enclosed coastal water, often at a river mouth, that has a high input of fresh water and experiences great fluctuation in salinity (saltiness)	m	Metres
Exclusive economic zone	An area of the sea adjacent to and beyond the territorial sea, extending out to 200 nautical miles from the baselines (e.g. coast). Within the EEZ, a coastal state has sovereign and jurisdictional rights over exploration and management, and economic exploitation of living and non-living resources in the waters above, in and beneath the seabed. Within the EEZ of one state, other states enjoy freedoms related to navigation and flight.	m², m³	Square metres, cubic metres
Fireclay	A type of clay that can withstand high temperatures.	MCTS	Marine Communications and Traffic Services (program of the Canadian Coast Guard)
GIS	Geographical Information System	Moratorium	A suspension of activity.
GMA	Groundfish Management Area	mt	Metric tonnes
GNBC	Geographical Names Board of Canada	Niche	The ecological role of a species in the community; the many ranges of conditions and resource qualities within which the organism or species persists.
Groundfish	A bottom-dwelling fish, especially one of commercial importance such as cod, haddock, pollock, rockfish or flounder.	NMCA	National Marine Conservation Area
Gyre	A circular or spiral system of movement, especially a giant circular oceanic surface current.	NRM	Natural resource mapping
Habitat	The place and natural conditions in which a plant or animal lives.	NWA	National Wildlife Area
Hindcasting	In wave prediction, the retrospective forecasting of waves using measured wind information.	ODR	Offshore dead reckon
Hydrology	The study of the movement of water from the sea through the air to the land and back to the sea; the properties, distribution, and circulation of water on or below the Earth's surface and in the atmosphere.	Organism	Any living creature, either single-celled or multi-celled.
IA	Important Area	PECP	Pacific Estuary Conservation Program
IBA	Important Bird Area	PFMA	Pacific Fishery Management Area
Invertebrate	An animal without a backbone.	Photic zone	The zone extending downward from the surface of a marine or fresh water body within which the light is sufficient to sustain photosynthesis.
IQ	Individual quota	Plankton	Small aquatic organisms (animals [zooplankton] and plants [phytoplankton]) that drift with the currents. The animals in this category include protozoans, small crustaceans, and the larval stages of larger organisms, while plant forms are mainly diatoms.
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	PNCIMA	Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area
IVQ	Individual vessel quota	Pocket cruise ship	Smaller marine cruising products (as compared to traditional cruise liners) that encompass a range of vessels from small boats carrying a dozen or less passengers, to large ocean-going ships that carry hundreds of tourists.
Kaolin	Soft white clay that is an essential ingredient in the manufacture of china and porcelain and is widely used in the making of paper, rubber, paint, and many other products.	Primary productivity	The rate at which biomass is produced by organisms which synthesize complex organic substances from simple inorganic substrates, such as in photosynthesis and chemosynthesis.
km	Kilometres	QCSND	Queen Charlotte Sound
Larva	An immature animal that is anatomically (based on body shape/structure) very different from the adult.	Raster	A common GIS data model made up of a grid of cells or pixels. Each pixel contains a single value.
		RCA	Rockfish Conservation Area
		RDR	Radar tracked vessel
		Reach	A continuous part of a stream between two specified points.

Relief	The difference in elevation between the high and low points of a surface; changes in terrain; elevations or depressions in the land.	Staging	Resting or feeding, often in flocks, before or during migration; an activity usually associated with migratory birds.
Salmonid	Any of a family of elongate bony fishes (such as salmon or trout) that have the last three vertebrae upturned.	TAC	Total allowable catch
SARA	Species at Risk Act	TC	Transport Canada
SCEA	Salmon catch estimate area	Tectonic plate	The plates that make up the surface of the Earth.
Seamount	An underwater mountain.	TEZ	Tanker Exclusion Zone
SEDS	Salmon Escapement Database System	Upwelling	Vertical movement of water, usually near coasts and driven by offshore winds, that brings nutrients from deep waters to the surface layers of the ocean.
Sessile	Attached; not free to move about.	US	United States
SMA	Species/Stock Management Area	USA	United States of America
SOK	Spawn-on-kelp	W	Watts
Spatial	Relating to space, or arrangement in space		



Photo: Anuradha Rao



Photo: Bridget Ennevor