

ShoreZone Classification System

The ShoreZone mapping system is a mature system that has been in use since the early 1980s and has been applied to more than 40,000 km of shoreline in Washington and British Columbia. The system catalogs both geomorphic and biological shore-zone resources at effective mapping scales of better than 1:10,000. Approximately 5,000 km of Gulf of Alaska shoreline has been inventoried since 2001 using this system. The ShoreZone protocol calls for information to be widely accessible. To this end, the low tide-oblique aerial imagery has been webposted, allowing any web-user to fly Gulf of Alaska shorelines that have been imaged. Selected thematic data is available on the web through an ArcIMS site; users can select themes of interest (e.g., eelgrass occurrence) to create region-wide or site specific maps. Complete GIS files and linked databases are available as downloads for 'power' users. Specific data products include: (1) imagery (both web-posted or videotapes/DVD), (2) spatial data (electronic maps), (3) linked attribute data that was interpreted from the aerial imagery and (4) ground station data collected in support of the aerial mapping program.