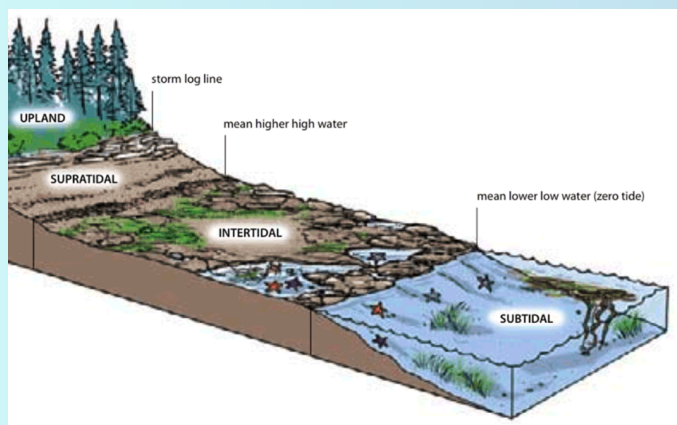


# DEVELOPMENT NEAR MARINE AREAS

Marine shorelines encompass a variety of marine influenced ecosystems including the ocean, sensitive seagrass meadows, marshes and intertidal areas such as mudflats, beaches and rocky shorelines that link terrestrial and marine environments.



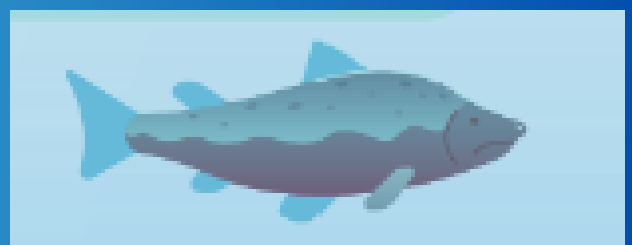
Estuary, intertidal and shoreline areas are some of the most biologically diverse habitats in the world. Eelgrass and channels within the estuary offer crucial hiding places and transition zones for out-migrating juvenile salmon, while shorelines at large provide critical grazing habitat for birds and wildlife, as well as spawning habitat for many species of fish including forage fish, such as the Pacific sand lance and surf smelt.

Illustration by Soren Henrich

The federal Fisheries Act applies to marine and tidally influenced areas. If your project is a residential, commercial or industrial activity within 30 metres of the shoreline, and you are planning any of the following:

- altering vegetation or disturbing soils,
- constructing buildings or structures,
- creating hard surfaces, such as pavement, or
- subdividing land

a review by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) may be required.



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