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## Northern Half of the Viscount Melville Sound Study Area

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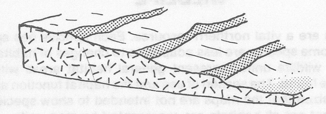
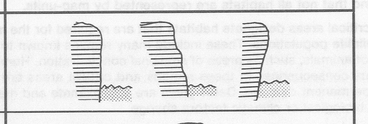
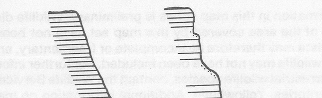
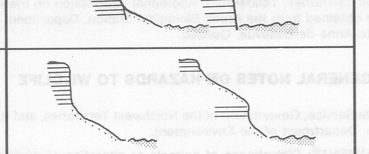
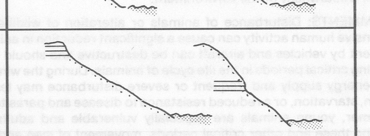
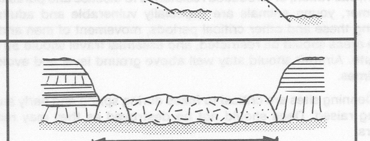
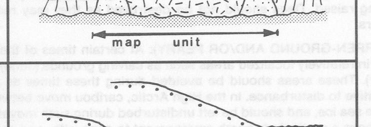
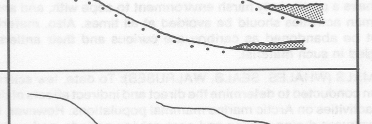
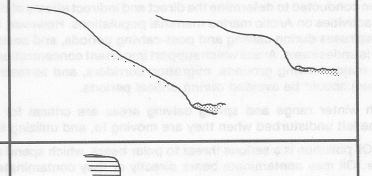
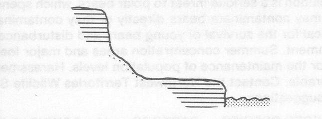
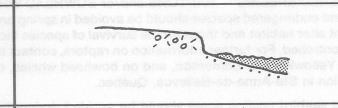
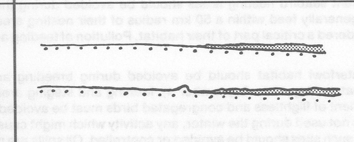
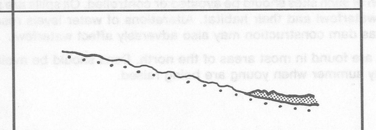
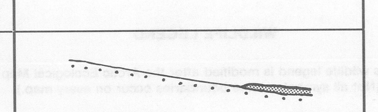
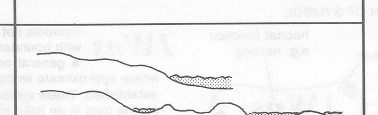
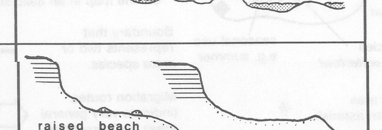
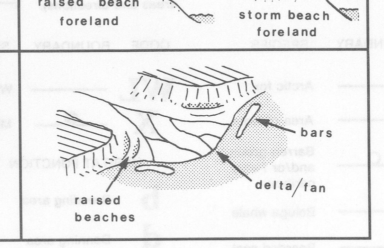
## COASTAL CLASSIFICATION

| CODE | CLASS AND DESCRIPTION | DIAGRAMS (NOT TO SCALE) |
|---|---|---|
| **Bc** | CONTEMPORARY BEACH COMPLEX. High energy depositional environments, which are usually extensive. Spits, bars, lagoons, former beach ridges and storm beaches are common as are gravel forelands and raised beaches inland. Coarse sands and gravel are typical materials. |  |
| **Br** | RAISED BEACH SEQUENCE. Sequences of beach ridges typically occurring on 5-10° slopes extending up to 2 km inland. Surface materials are gravel. Narrow contemporary beaches of low energy are ubiquitous. Wider beaches are classed as **Bc**. Strandlines on generally level plains are classed as **Pg**. |  |
| **Ca** | CLIFFS WITH NO TALUS. Precipitous rock slopes that range from 65° slopes-to vertical, sometimes overhanging. The cliff face may include prominant rock ledges. The class has no beach and occurrence is very limited. |  |
| **Cb** | CLIFFS WITH LESS THAN ONE-THIRD TALUS COVER. As class **Ca**, but with up to one-third of height covered by talus, free-fallen from the precipitous rock slope above. The talus itself may be of variable thickness, including blankets or veneers on bedrock. Narrow (1-3 m) coarse gravel and boulder beaches are typical. |  |
| **Cc** | CLIFFS WITH ONE-THIRD TO TWO-THIRDS TALUS COVER. As class **Cb**, with more talus. |  |
| **Cd** | CLIFFS WITH MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS TALUS. As class **Cc**, but mostly talus covered. As talus attains complete cover, this class grades into class **Hc**. |  |
| **Gl** | GLACIERS. Glacier ice which reaches the sea, and results in calving. Where the ice has retreated to leave a gravel plain, classes **Ps** or **Pg** take precedence. This class includes associated lateral moraines as bluffs of till with small gravel beaches. Classes **Cb**, **Cc** and **Cd** are normally found juxtaposed. |   |
| **Hc** | COLLUVIAL HILLSLOPES. Smooth, sloping colluvium, typically undergoing sheet wash or solifluction, extending to narrow gravel beaches. This class occurs mostly in sheltered waters — exposure to significant wave action would quickly erode these materials and create beach or foreland conditions. This class grades into class **Cd** with increasing slope. |  |
| **Hr** | ROCKY HILLS. Mainly bedrock-controlled slopes, over 5-10°, which extend from over 10 m elevation. Pockets of colluvium and raised beaches are common, either reaching the sea or perched on the backshores. Small fans occur throughout, and give rise to narrow gravel beaches extending alongshore. Small sections of precipitous rock slopes may also be present. Islands are common offshore. |  |
| **Pc** | ROCKY PLAIN WITH LOW CLIFFS. These normally occur as low rock forelands in front of rocky hills or high cliffs with talus. These rock forelands range from 10's of metres to 1-2 km wide, and are typically up to 10 metres high. Near vertical cliffs at the seaward end are common. Beaches of any kind are rare. |  |
| **Pe** | ERODED PLAIN — CUTBANKS. Coastal plains of unconsolidated but cohesive materials, such as clay-till or lacustrine sediments, which are eroded at the shoreline to produce low bluff backshores. Similar coasts in bedrock are classed as **Pc**. |  |
| **Pf** | FLUVIAL PLAIN — SANDFLATS. Extensive deposits (up to 100's $km^2$) of unconsolidated alluvial sand and/or silt where rapid terrestrial erosion coincides with wave- and current-free nearshore conditions, such as where sea-ice prevails year-round. Sandflats are smooth, nearly horizontal plains. Waterlines may be marked by push ridges, or there may be simply a smooth progression from land to sea. |  |
| **Pg** | IRREGULAR PLAIN (formerly Till Plain, **Pt**). Similar to **Pl** in broad relief — plains of less than 10 m elevation near the coast and slopes typically less than 5-10°, coupled with limited beach development and shallows nearshore. Medium to coarse sediments and irregular terrain prevail (eg. till plains or strandlines). Strandlines on progressively inclined surfaces are classed as **Br**. |  |
| **Pl** | INCLINED PLAIN (formerly Marine Plain, **Pm**). Similar to **Pg** in broad relief — plains of less than 10 m elevation near the coast and slopes typically less than 5-10°, coupled with limited smooth terrain prevail, such as related to emergent marine deposits or pediments. |  |
| **Pr** | ROCKY PLAIN. Rocky slopes of low elevation, usually less than 10 m, and of slopes less than 5-10°. Colluvial pockets and fans occur occasionally, and narrow gravel beaches occur in their vicinity. This class grades into **Hr** with increasing elevations. Islands and reefs are common offshore. |  |
| **Ps** | PLAINS WITH STEEP BACKSHORE (other than rock-controlled). Forelands or plains consisting of unconsolidated sediments. Usually as raised fans, or raised marine platforms covered by beach deposits, past or present. The plain changes relatively abruptly to a steep backshore (over 5-10°) and a narrow contemporary beach. |   |
| **Rf** | RIVER-MOUTH AND FLUVIAL COMPLEXES. Includes features associated with river mouths; fans, deltas, estuaries, tidal flats, marshes, baymouth bars, spits, etc. Smaller fans grade into class **Ps** where isostatic rebound exceeds the streams debris supply, causing the fan to be raised and the stream to incise. |   |