



Pacific Maritime Ecozone

The Pacific Maritime Ecozone, as the name implies, includes the land margin along the entire Pacific Coast, as well the marine portion. Mountainous topography dominates, cut through by numerous fjords and glacial valleys and bordered by coastal plains along the ocean.

This ecozone has some of the warmest and wettest climatic conditions in Canada. This maritime-moderated climate receives as little as 600 mm of precipitation per year in the lower Georgian Strait, while the overall area is typically much wetter, receiving up to 3000 mm. There is generally relatively little variation between the mean monthly temperatures, compared to elsewhere in Canada: average July temperatures are in the 12°C to 18°C range, while the average January temperatures are relatively warm 4°C to 6°C.

The western coastal forest is composed mostly of western red and yellow cedar, western hemlock, Douglas fir, mountain hemlock, amabilis fir, Sitka spruce and alder.

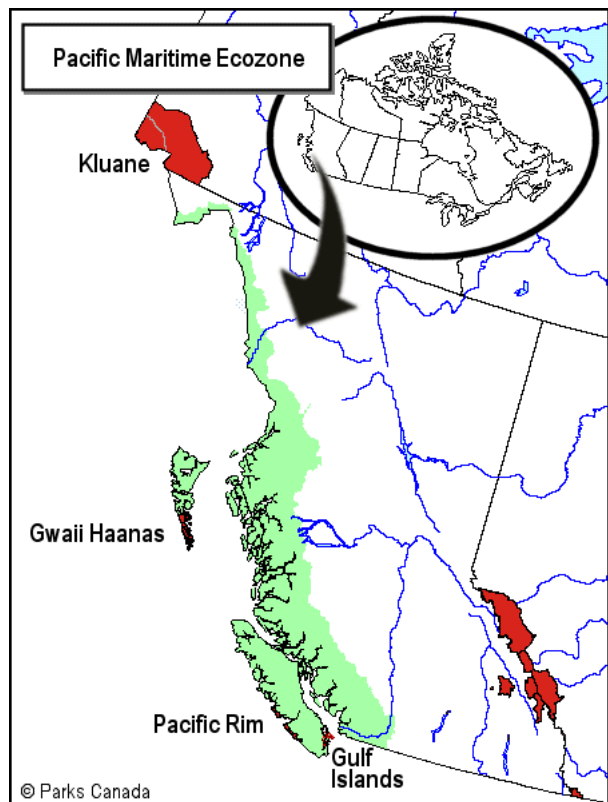
Characteristic mammals of the Pacific Maritime Ecozone include white-tailed deer, black and grizzly bears and mountain lions.

Bird species include black oystercatcher, California and mountain quail, tufted puffin and chestnut-backed chickadee.

Marine environments are typified by northern sea lion and by different species of seal and whale.

This ecozone includes:

- [Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada](#)
- [Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site](#)
- [Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada](#)
- [Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada](#)



Reference: Lands Directorate, *Terrestrial Ecozones Of Canada*, Ecological Land Classification No. 19, 1986, p. 26.