

Caring for the Coast: Gaps in BC's Laws

Issue	Legal Approaches in Other Jurisdictions	British Columbia
 Laws that require preparation and implementation of coastal & marine plans 	Washington State: The <i>Washington State Waters Planning and Management Act</i> requires state decisions to be consistent with the state marine spatial plan.	X No provincial law requires collaborative planning along the coast. X No provincial law requires implementation of coastal and marine plans, such as the <u>Marine</u> <u>Plan Partnership</u> plans.
	California: The <i>Coastal Act</i> requires all local governments to develop local coastal programs that specify the location, type, and scale of new or changed uses of land and water and conform with the state's legislative goals to "Protect, maintain, and where feasible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the coastal zone environment."	
	Scotland: The <i>Marine</i> (<i>Scotland</i>) <i>Act 2010</i> requires the development of marine plans that decisions makers must consider.	
2. Rules on sea level rise & climate adaptation	Nova Scotia: The <i>Coastal Protection Act</i> sets clear rules to ensure new developments are located in places safe from rising seas and coastal flooding.	X No BC law. Sea-level rise guidance exists to assist local planning.
	New South Wales: The State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 provides guidance to local governments on controlling development and sets rules for coastal protection works.	
3. Reducing shoreline hardening	Washington State: The <i>Shoreline Management Act</i> requires that local governments develop Shoreline Master Programs and that new developments avoid shoreline armouring.	X Significant gaps in BC legislation make it difficult to implement initiatives to soften shorelines.
	Oregon: The <i>Oregon Beach Bill</i> provides a statutory basis to regulate structures along the shoreline to limit shoreline hardening.	
	Nova Scotia: The <i>Coastal Protection Act</i> prohibits any activity that "interferes with the natural dynamic and shifting nature of the coast."	
4. Prevention of coastal habitat loss	Nova Scotia: The <i>Beaches Act</i> prohibits development on listed beaches unless provincial approval is obtained.	X No B.C. law protects freshwater shorelines X No law to protect marine shorelines.
	Washington State: The <i>Shoreline Management Act</i> requires any use of the shoreline to be "consistent with the control of pollution and prevention of damage to the natural environment, and requires local governments to put in place policies to achieve "no net loss of ecological function."	
	California: The <i>Coastal Act</i> requires any person, including a state or local agency, to obtain a permit before undertaking development, defined broadly, in the coastal zone.	
5. Intergovernmental coordination	Washington State: The Department of Ecology under the <i>Shoreline Management Act</i> coordinates state coastal policy by setting requirements for local governments and is the point of contact for federal agencies and users.	X B.C. does not have a specialized agency to coordinate coastal management.
	California: T he Coastal Commission under the <i>Coastal Act</i> provides an integrated, one-stop shop approach to coastal management.	
	Louisiana: The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority carries out strategic planning for the coast and develops a master plan of projects for protection and restoration.	
6. Maintaining public access	California: The <i>Coastal Act</i> guarantees public access to the coast, prohibits development from interfering with access, and requires public facilities and safeguards to prevent visitor and recreational facilities from becoming unaffordable.	X B.C. does not have legislation to guarantee general public rights of access to the coastline.