

How our range maps were created

The range maps were created in partnership with the BC Conservation Data Centre (BC CDC) using methods developed for the BC CDC's provincial species range mapping project. The species ranges are based on Ecoregions which are defined according to their physical, oceanographic, and biological characteristics; Ecoregions tend to affect species distribution within a bio-geographic region. See link here https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/ecosystems/broad-ecosystem/an_introduction_to_the_ecoregions_of_british_columbia.pdf for more details on Ecoregions in BC. See below for the Ecoregion distribution map and their full names.

Input data (observations) were obtained from the following data sources:

- BC Conservation Data Centre – Element Occurrences
- Wildlife Species Inventory, Survey and Incidental Observations
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
- iNaturalist.ca
- Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley (MVZ)
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Contributions from subject matter experts
- Relevant publications

Observations were overlaid on Ecoregion polygons; any polygons that contained observations were flagged as “Present”.

A group of species experts reviewed the resultant maps and identified incorrect data (e.g., misidentifications, incorrect coordinates, etc.). Ecoregion polygons that may contain the species were marked as “Presence expected”. If observations were >40 years old, the polygons were marked as “Historical presence”.

For species considered to be "accidental" in BC, instead of creating range maps, we produced maps showing the individual records since the species are not currently established in BC.

If you would like to download the Ecoregion data you can get it from the BC Geographic Warehouse <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/ecosections-ecoregion-ecosystem-classification-of-british-columbia>. If you would like to download the species range data (available April 2022) you can get it from BC Geographic Warehouse <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/species-at-risk-range-data-cdc>. The observation data for individual species are available from the sources listed above.

Every range map on this website is downloadable as pdf file.