Coastal Bluffs

Classification of Coastal Bluffs

Bluff types are based on coastal landform processes, stability, and vegetation. Bluffs are described in terms of cliff, terrace, or beach, and vegetation is described in terms of stable, unstable, or partially vegetated. Examples of specific bluff types include:

- **Cliff**
- **Terrace**
- **Beach**

Vegetation types vary across the map, with some areas more vegetated than others. This variation is due to differences in environmental conditions, such as sunlight, soil type, and moisture levels.

Classification and Mapping of Maine's Coastal Bluffs

This map provides information about coastal bluffs in Maine, including their location, type, and stability. Bluffs are classified into three categories: stable, unstable, and partially vegetated. The map shows the distribution of these bluffs across the state, with a focus on the area where they are most prevalent.

Bluffs are formed in a dynamic coastal environment by terrestrial and marine processes. Bluff development is influenced by factors such as wave action, tides, and sediment supply.

Bluff classification or bluff map 

1. Shoreline shown on this map, not for the entire town or unmapped locations. 
2. Distribution of bluff types varies across the state, with some areas more vegetated than others. 
3. Bluffs are classified into three categories: stable, unstable, and partially vegetated. 
4. The map shows the distribution of these bluffs across the state, with a focus on the area where they are most prevalent.

Coastal Bluff Mapping by the Maine Geological Survey via the Survey's website (address shown in title).

Coastal Bluff Classification

Bluff Rank

- **1** indicates conditions with minimal bluff recession, with the least stability risk.
- **2** indicates conditions with moderate bluff recession, with moderate stability risk.
- **3** indicates conditions with severe bluff recession, with high stability risk.

This map does not identify erosion trends on beaches or sand dunes. The map does not indicate continuing bluff retreat.

Related Maps

- Coastal Bluffs Map of Maine
- Coastal Bluffs Map of Maine

Other Sources of Information

- Maine's coast (currently 3 mm/year or a foot a century) allows storms and coastal flooding to reach further inland and erode sediments at the bluffs. The map shows the shoreline, and their potential to rapidly move large amounts of land downslope under the influence of storms and coastal flooding.

Acknowledgments

- Coastal Bluffs Map of Maine
- Coastal Bluffs Map of Maine

The map is intended to be used for planning, as well as for educational and research purposes. The map may be downloaded for non-commercial use. The map is not to scale and is not intended to be used for navigation. The map was produced for the State of Maine's Coastal Bluffs Project, funded by the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The project was conducted by the Maine Geological Survey, in cooperation with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the University of Maine. The map was produced by Stephen M. Dickson and Joseph T. Kelley. The map was reviewed by Robert G. Marvinney and Christian R. Husted. The map was updated in 2019.