

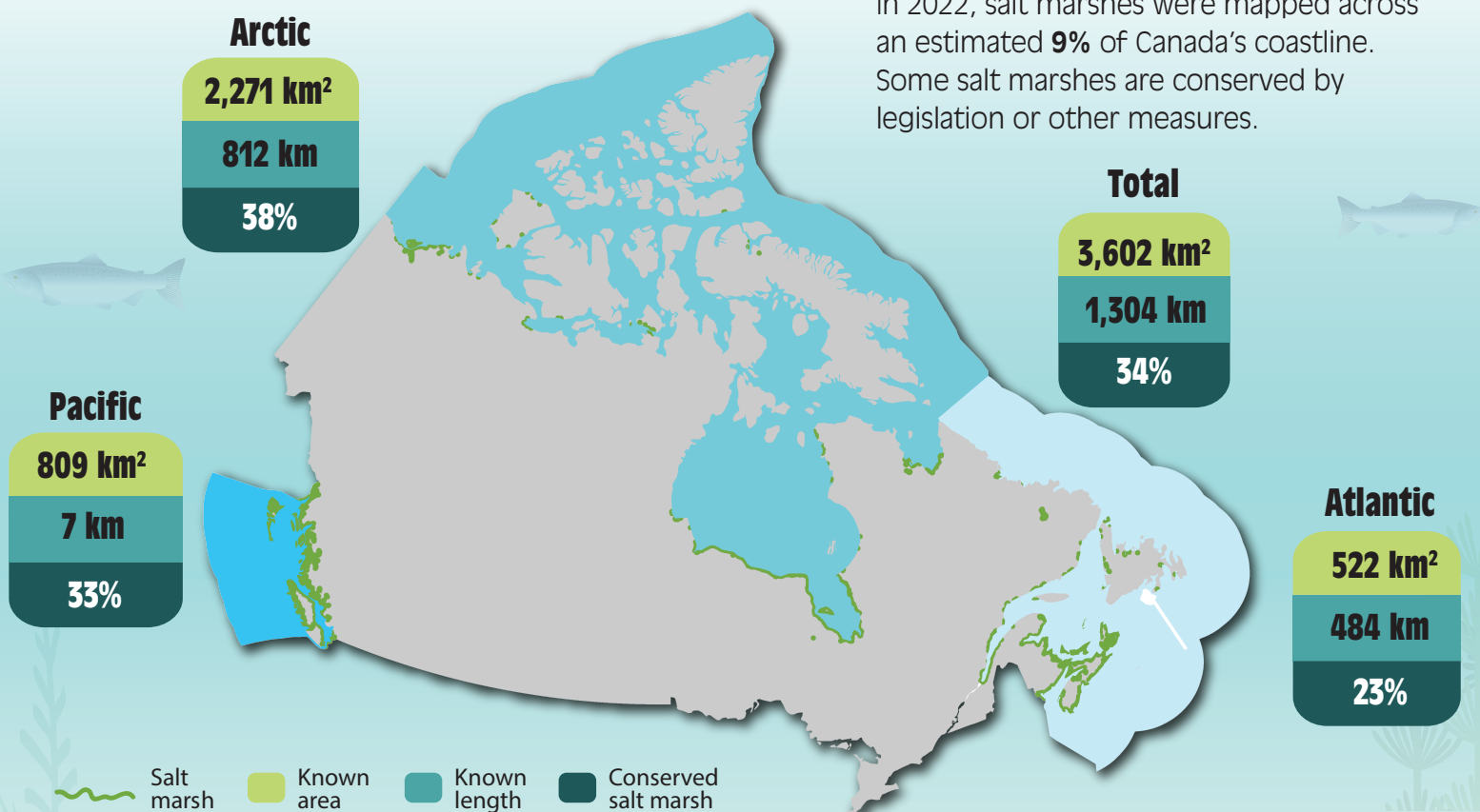
Salt marshes in Canada



Salt marshes are a type of tidal wetland found along Canada's coastline

They provide a variety of ecosystem services, including climate regulation, flood protection for coastal communities, and important habitat for wildlife.

In 2022, salt marshes were mapped across an estimated **9%** of Canada's coastline. Some salt marshes are conserved by legislation or other measures.



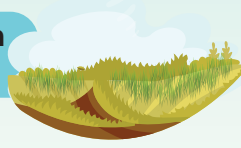
Ecosystem condition and services

Salt marshes are vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise. Their health can be assessed using metrics such as:

pollution



vegetation density



tidal flooding



Salt marshes help regulate the global climate by removing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it. Canadian salt marshes could be sequestering as much as **785 kilotonnes of carbon** each year.

What is ecosystem accounting?

Work is underway to develop ecosystem accounts for Canada's ecosystems as part of the **Census of Environment**.¹ These accounts provide measures of the extent, condition and services of ecosystems.

¹ For more information, please consult the [Census of Environment](#)

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian System of Environmental–Economic Accounts – Ecosystem Accounts; Rabinowitz, T. R. M. and J. Andrews. 2022. "Valuing the salt marsh ecosystem: Developing ecosystem accounts." *Environment Accounts and Statistics Analytical and Technical Paper Series*, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 16-001-M.

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