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# Current and Future Directions in Modelling Terminal Pleistocene Paleo-coastal Landforms in British Columbia

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## Résumé

A small number of Terminal Pleistocene sites are now known on the coast of British Columbia. Increasing this inventory will require ever-more sophisticated coastal predictive modelling techniques and high-resolution digital terrain models for both the terrestrial and submerged environments. In this paper we review early period archaeology and environments on the coast. While eustatic sea level was globally lower, local isostatic effects create a mosaic of simultaneously higher and lower sea levels, relative to modern. There are also areas of considerable long-term stability. We discuss why it may be helpful to closely examine the differences, especially at a human scale, between transgressing and regressing sea levels, both of which characterize areas of the early B.C. coast. Modelling the ancient coastlines must incorporate both coastally-relevant variables and a humanistic appreciation for the environmental effects of sea level change. We explore this issue with reference to one study area with rapidly regressing shorelines (Quadra Island) and another with rapidly transgressing shorelines (Haida Gwaii) between ca. 14,500 and 11,000 cal. BP. There are indicators of locally-viable environments from near the last glacial maximum and improved paleo-coastal prospection methods should help to find the early human record from this area which is increasingly central to models of the First Peopling of the Americas.

**Mots-Clés:** Peopling, Americas, Coasts, Canada

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