

Table 8.1. Approximate sea surface temperatures and vegetation in the vicinity of the New World land bridges, compared to estimated paleotemperatures and vegetation at the PECO (from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA; [www.ospo.noaa.gov](http://www.ospo.noaa.gov)), present text, and other sources)

Site	longitude	Present sst	Modern vegetation	PECO sst	Paleo- vegetation
Bering Sea	60°N	-10° C (north) 4° C (south)	taiga- tundra	15° C warmer	subtropical- warm temperate (boreotropical)
Nares Strait	80.8°N	-1.58° C	taiga- tundra	15° C warmer	subtropical- warm-temperate (boreotropical)
Gulf of Panama	5°N	28° C	tropical	3°-5° C warmer	tropical
Weddell Sea	70°S	ca. 0° C	+/-devoid (Antarctica)	14°-18° C warmer	warm-cool temperate