

1-110-A Site Summary - Smith River Estuary**1-110-A****County:** Del Norte **ACP Division/Segment:** DN - B - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18602**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 41.94672 -124.20529**Site Description:**

The Smith River mouth and the associated estuary provide important habitat for numerous species of fish and wildlife all year. Much of the land west of the estuary is managed by State Parks as Tolowa Dunes State Park, and east of the estuary by the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation and private ownership. Oil that threatens to enter the estuary from an offshore spill should be contained as close to the mouth as is feasible under the prevailing on scene conditions at the time of the incident. The site has a tidal inlet that is generally open all year. Substrate consists of medium- to coarse-grained sand on beach face. The back beach is pebble and cobble and can collect some driftwood in moderate amounts on south spit but only low amounts on north side. No natural oil/tar is found at this site. Easily accessed site. Distance (20+ miles) from pre-staged equipment. This site includes the tidal estuary.

Smith River has an extensive estuary where oil should be exclude from entering when ever possible. The wetlands and associated wildlife are dynamic and highly vulnerable to damage from oil and response activities. Shorebirds, coastal seabirds, wading birds, waterfowl, common loon (SSC), western grebe, double-crested cormorant (01-12), Aleutian cackling goose (10-11;02-04), California brown pelican (04-11), marbled murrelet (FT,SE)(01-12). Raptors including bald eagle (SE), peregrine falcon, and osprey: all (01-12). Harbor seals and pups present near river mouth. Kelp beds offshore, eelgrass in estuary. Anadromous salmonids includes coho (FT, ST), and chinook salmon (SSC), steelhead (SSC), and coastal cutthroat trout (SSC): spawning runs (four species combined) (08-06), juveniles/smolts (four species combined) (02-08), juveniles may use estuary year round. Tidewater goby (FE)(01-12), green sturgeon (FT,SSC), eulachon (FT,SSC), Pacific lamprey (SSC). See RAR list and site 1-115 for more listed species that may be found in the vicinity.

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

List of Resources at Risk:

| | Resource Name | Status | Presence | Sensitivity |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|------------|-------------|
| Birds | common loon | FP, SSC | SEP-FEB | |
| Birds | marbled murrelet | FT, SE | Year-round | |
| Birds | Western snowy plover | FT, SSC | Year-round | |
| Fish | eulachon | FT | Year-round | |
| Fish | Pacific lamprey | SSC | Year-round | |
| Fish | tidewater goby | FE, SSC | Year-round | |
| Fish | salmonids | | Year-round | |
| Insects | Oregon silverspot butterfly | FT | Year-round | |

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

List of Key Contacts:

| Type | Name/Title | Organization | Phone |
|------|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| C | /Coordinator | Native American Heritage Commission | (916) 373-3710 |
| C | /Coordinator | Northwest Information Center | (707) 588-8455 |
| C | / | Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation | (707) 487-9255 |
| E | / | Del Norte County Sheriff's Department | (707) 464-4191 |
| E | / | Howonquet Village and Resort (Salmon Harbor) | (707) 487-3341 |
| E | / | Howonquet Village and Resort (Ship Ashore) | (707) 487-3141 |
| E | / | Redwood National and State Parks | (707) 464-6101 |
| O | /Supervisor Ranger (24hr) | NORCOM State Parks Dispatch | (916) 358-1300 |
| T | / | NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service-Arcata | (707) 822-7201 |
| T | / | US Fish and Wildlife Service-Arcata Field Office | (707) 822-7201 |
| T | / | Yurok Tribal Office, Klamath | (707) 482-1350 |

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

Additional Site Summary Comments:

Breeding seabirds will use these rocks for nesting in the spring. Offshore rocks provide roosting and nesting habitat for birds and haulout locations for marine mammals. Care should be taken so that response activities do not flush wildlife from these areas. The rocks are sensitive to human intrusion year round, especially during nesting season (03-09) when the adults are on eggs and until the young have fledged from the nest. The offshore rocks have cultural significance for local tribes.

For further information about coastal access in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Commission's California Coastal Access Guide. For photos of the coastline in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Records Project (www.californiacoastline.org).

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist in the area, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting the Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, the State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or the Northwest Information Center (707) 588-8455.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Consider booming the confluence of the Smith River and Tillas Slough for additional habitat protection if time allows.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Out flowing water from the Smith River can create hazardous currents during storm and spring flood events.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: II**

Strategy: 1-110.1 Objective: Observe on-scene conditions before assigning response equipment

Strategy: Recommend an USCG overflight or on-scene site visit before sending equipment to this tidally dynamic location. The River mouth has historically been many miles south of the present location.

Table of Response Resources

| Equipment | Sub-Type | Size | Unit | QTY | Unit | Last Page Update |
|------------|----------|------|------|-----|------|------------------|
| helicopter | | | | 1 | | |

Strategy: 1-110.2 Objective: Bring oil to shore for collection on incoming tides

Strategy: Anchor a boom on the back of the spit near the mouth and divert oil to the low current pocket on the eastern shore at the boat ramp.

Table of Response Resources

| Equipment | Sub-Type | Size | Unit | QTY | Unit | Last Page Update |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|------|------|------|------------------|
| Boom | Harbor Boom | | | 1500 | feet | |
| Anchor | Danforth | 25 lb | | 12 | | |
| boat | Boom Boat | | | 1 | | |
| boat | Skiff | | | 2 | | |
| Staff | Staff to Deploy | | | 3 | | |
| Staff | Staff to Tend | | | 2 | | |

Strategy: 1-110.3 Objective: Diversion boom to bring oil to shore and minimize spread in the estuary on incoming tides

Strategy: Set an anchor mid channel and place a "V" of boom to divert oil to low current pockets on the shore near the entrance.

Table of Response Resources

| Equipment | Sub-Type | Size | Unit | QTY | Unit | Last Page Update |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|------|------|------|------------------|
| Boom | Swamp | | | 6000 | feet | |
| Anchor | Danforth | 25 lb | | 30 | | |
| boat | Boom Boat | | | 1 | | |
| boat | Skiff | | | 1 | | |
| Staff | Staff to Deploy | | | 3 | | |
| Staff | Staff to Tend | | | 2 | | |

Strategy: 1-110.4 Objective: Exclude oil from rocky shore on the north side of the inlet.

Strategy: Line the northwest shore with boom to prevent oiling of the rocky shoreline.

Table of Response Resources

| Equipment | Sub-Type | Size | Unit | QTY | Unit | Last Page Update |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|------|------|------|------------------|
| Boom | Swamp | | | 1000 | feet | |
| Anchor | Danforth | 25 lb | | 8 | | |
| boat | Boom Boat | | | 1 | | |
| boat | Skiff | | | 1 | | |
| Staff | Staff to Deploy | | | 3 | | |
| Staff | Staff to Tend | | | 2 | | |

Strategy: 1-110.5 Objective: Exclude oil from rocky shoreline using pompoms.

Strategy: Line rocky tidal area with pompoms.

Table of Response Resources

| Equipment | Sub-Type | Size | Unit | QTY | Unit | Last Page Update |
|------------|-----------------|-------|------|-----|------|------------------|
| Other Boom | Pom-pom | | | | | |
| Anchor | Danforth | 25 lb | | 6 | | |
| boat | Boom Boat | | | 1 | | |
| boat | Skiff | | | 1 | | |
| Staff | Staff to Deploy | | | 3 | | |
| Staff | Staff to Tend | | | 2 | | |

Logistics:

Directions: Go north on Hwy 101 for 17-miles from Crescent City to 'Mouth of Smith River' Road at MP 43.17, about 1/2 mile north of Ship Ashore Resort. Turn left and go to end of road. The road ends at an overlook at the mouth of the Smith River. Best access for response is from Ship Ashore Resort on U.S. 101 at Chinook St. A small boat ramp is available behind the hotel and restaurant that overlook the river. Access also available at the Salmon Harbor Resort next door and Westbrook Gravel operation further upstream.

Land Access: Large trucks can access this site.

On-Water Limitations: Local boat ramps are only suitable for shallow draft skiffs.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: A medium sized staging area may be available at the Ship Ashore Resort. The area has a restaurant, hotel, public phones. Water and electricity may be available for emergency use.

Communications Problems:

Additional Operational Comments: For Smith River flow gauge information see: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11532650/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D>

