

**1-115-A Site Summary - South Spit Smith River****1-115-A****County:** Del Norte **ACP Division/Segment:** DN - B - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18602**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 41.91511 -124.20238**Site Description:**

The Smith River mouth and the associated estuary provide good habitat for numerous species of fish and wildlife during all seasons of the year. 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 beach and sand dunes between Smith River and Point St George are managed by State Parks as Tolowa Dunes State Park. Fine- to medium-grained sand beach south of river mouth. Immediate response is probably not necessary; minimal damage would occur, but this does not preclude the need to clean after impacts. This site includes the beach and dunes south of the mouth of Smith River.

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. Western snowy plover (FT)(01-12), nesting (03-09), FWS Critical Habitat in dunes. Harbor seals and pups are common inside river mouth. Anadromous salmonids includes coho (FT, ST), and chinook (SSC) salmon, 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. Although usually not in large numbers, salmonids including coho and chinook salmon, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout often forage in the nearshore environment and can be impacted by oiling; eulachon (FT), tidewater goby (FT) in estuary. Surfperch spawning (04-06), surfsmelt spawning (04-07). Sensitive vegetation in dunes includes bluff wallflower, coast checkboom, Pacific gilia, pink sand verbena, sand dune phacelia, Wolf's evening primrose (all CNPS List 1B). See RAR list and site 1-110 for more listed species in vicinity.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

4 Coarse-grained sand beaches

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Presence</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>
Birds	common loon	FP, SSC	SEP-FEB	
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	bank swallow	ST	JUN-AUG	
Fish	eulachon	FT	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:**

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](http://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:****Hazard and Restrictions:**

Beach is steep and short in some areas.

**Site Strategies:**

**Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 1-115.1 Objective:** No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

**Strategy:** This site is best protected by preventing the oil from arriving here, when possible. Off-site response options including dispersants should be considered.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update**

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** Go north on Hwy 101 through Crescent City to Northcrest Drive (M.P. 27.01). Turn left at the signal light and continue for 6.1 miles. Note that Northcrest Dr. becomes 'Lake Earl Drive' after ~2 miles. Turn left on Lower Lake Road and go 2.5 miles and then turn left onto Kellogg Road. Continue on Kellogg Road to its end at the beach. Smith River spit is accessible by 4WD and ATV by going north on the beach.

**Land Access:** Accessible from Kellogg Road.

**On-Water Limitations:** Small boat launch available behind Ship Ashore resort.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** None

**Communications Problems:**

**Additional Operational Comments:**

