

1-145-A Site Summary - Elk Creek and Crescent City Harbor**1-145-A****County:** Del Norte **ACP Division/Segment:** DN - D - S02**NOAA Chart:** 18603**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 41.74853 -124.19271**Site Description:**

Crescent City Harbor District manages the harbor and marina. Dungeness crab is the primary commercial species landed in the harbor. Elk Creek flows into the harbor and is managed as the Elk Creek Wildlife Area by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Site is associated with BLM's California Coastal National Monument resources. A shallow protected harbor with dredged areas to accommodate commercial fishing vessels. Elk Creek has riprap north of the mouth and a sandy beach on the south. Elk Creek flows into a developed commercial and recreational harbor that is susceptible to tsunami waves. The last Tsunami that caused damage here occurred March 12, 2011 and resulted in destruction of the inner boat basin which has been rebuilt to withstand higher forces.

This is a high bird use area year round. Seawater intakes to Ocean World aquarium are within the inner boat basin.

The marsh at the mouth of Elk Creek forms a small estuary used by salmonids. The harbor is used by many recreational and commercial fishermen. California brown pelican (04-11), marbled murrelet (FT,SE)(01-12), common loon (SSC), elegant tern (07-10), fork-tailed storm petrel (SSC)(02-10), rhinoceros auklet (01-12), black oystercatcher, osprey (01-12), wading birds and waterfowl (01-12). Haulouts for California sea lions and harbor seals (01-12). Coho salmon (FT, ST), steelhead (SSC), and coastal cutthroat trout (SSC): spawning runs (10-06), smolts/juveniles (02-08). Herring spawning (12-03), larval and juveniles (03-08), eelgrass.

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 6B Riprap

8C Sheltered riprap

9A Sheltered tidal flats

9A Sheltered tidal flats

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Amphibians	Northern red-legged frog	SSC	Year-round	
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Birds	common loon	FP, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	bird rookeries		Mar-Sep	
Fish	salmonids		Year-round	
Mammals	California sea lion	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	
Plants	sensitive plant community		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
E	/	Battery Point Light House	(707) 464-3089
E	/	Del Norte County Sheriff's Department	(707) 464-4191
O	/Office	Ocean World Aquarium	(707) 464-4900
T	/Agency Representative	California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Eureka	(707) 445-6493
T	/Harbor Master	Crescent City Harbor District	(707) 464-6174
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).

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:

Oiling of marsh habitats in Elk Creek could cause long term damage and be difficult to clean up. Avoid anchoring in eelgrass beds.

Seawater intakes to Ocean World aquarium are in the northern corner of the inner boat basin. Contact them if necessary: (707.464.4900)

Hazard and Restrictions:

This is a heavily used commercial area. The harbor, roads, and parking lots surrounding it may have heavy traffic including heavy equipment at times.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: V****Strategy: 1-145.1 Objective:** Exclude Oil

Strategy: Boom the mouth of Elk Creek with harbor boom to prevent oiling. The estuary can be boomed on foot at lower tides.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	600 feet				
anchor	Danforth	25 lb		4		
boat	Skiff			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			4		
Staff	Staff to Tend			2		

Strategy: 1-145.2 Objective: Other: See Strategy Box

Strategy: Boom the entrance channel to the boat basin to exclude incoming oil or retain spilled oil within the inner boat basin for recovery.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	300 feet				
Boom	Sorbent	600 feet				
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		4		
boat	Boom Boat			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			4		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			2		

Strategy: 1-145.3 Objective: Exclude Oil

Strategy: This is an alternate or secondary strategy to 1-145.1 and may be more appropriate under heavy wave action. Boom the mouth of Elk Creek and deflect oil to collection point near trailer park. This strategy was developed during the March 2011 tsunami response.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	600 feet				
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		4		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			4		
Staff	Staff to Tend			2		

Strategy: 1-145.4 Objective: Exclude Oil

Strategy: This is an alternate or secondary strategy to 1-145.1 and 1-145.3 and may be more appropriate under heavy wave action. Deploy sorbent boom near creek mouth to prevent oil from moving upstream on flood tide. This strategy was developed during the March 2011 tsunami response.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Sorbent	200 feet				
Staff	Staff to Deploy			4		
Staff	Staff to Tend			2		

Logistics:

Directions: Elk Creek: From Hwy 101 North into Crescent City, turn left onto Front Street or Sunset Circle. The mouth of Elk Creek and parking areas and trails off Play St and Battery St provide access on the west side. The east side is accessible from the Shoreline RV Campground. Crescent City Harbor: From Hwy 101 North, turn left onto Anchor Drive or Citizen's Dock Rd. A boat launch is available on south side near Whaler's Island and hoist near Citizen's Dock.

Land Access: Foot access to Elk Creek

On-Water Limitations: Large and small vessel launching facilities available

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Crescent City Harbor has public areas suitable for staging large quantities of equipment and personnel. Boat ramps and lifts are available for launching vessels. Restaurants, lodging and fuel are available nearby. Electricity and water may be available in some cases.

Communications Problems:

Additional Operational Comments: Heavy wave action may complicate conventional response.

