

1-260-A Site Summary - Eel River Estuary**1-260-A****County:** Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment:** HM - H - S02 HM - I - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18622, 18620**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 40.64155 -124.31227**Site Description:**

This site includes the Eel River and adjacent marshes and sloughs from Fernbridge to the river mouth. Ownerships include private land, Crab Park managed by Humboldt County Parks at the end of Cannibal Island Rd, and the Eel River Wildlife Area and Cock Robin Island managed by CDFW. Total acreage of marshes exceed 700 acres in addition to riparian vegetation. This major estuary complex has abundant marshes, as well as exposed and sheltered tidal flats, with numerous sloughs opening into the estuary. The mouth of the Eel River will migrate seasonally in response to river flow and near shore current changes. The mouth of the Eel River can, over a brief period of time, migrate from north to south or south to north for over a mile during winter storms. No booming response is advisable during high winter flows.

Large areas of pickleweed marsh on the Eel River side of the coastal sand dunes are tidally influenced. Salt marshes grade into riparian and freshwater margins as waters become less salty. Shorebirds, seabirds, wading birds, waterfowl (01-12). California brown pelican (04-11), bald eagle (SE), peregrine falcon, osprey, merlin; all (01-12). Western snowy plover (FT)(01-12), FWS Critical Habitat-sand dunes on both north and south spits of Eel River, nesting period (03-09). Nests directly on sand within dunes. Harbor seals and California sea lions haulout near river mouth. Eelgrass in estuary. Anadromous salmonids: coho (FT,ST) and chinook (FT) salmon, steelhead (FT) and coastal cutthroat (SSC) trout: spawning runs (08-06); juveniles/smolts (02-08). Green sturgeon (FT,SSC), tidewater goby (FE), FWS Critical Habitat, longfin smelt (ST), Pacific lamprey (SSC).

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

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

9A Sheltered tidal flats

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Sep
Birds	bald eagle	FP, SE	Year-round	
Birds	western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT, SE	Year-round	Mar-Sep
Fish	salmonids		Year-round	
Fish	longfin smelt	ST	Year-round	
Fish	Pacific lamprey	SSC	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Mammals	pinnipeds	FP	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	/	The Wiyot Tribe	(707) 733-5055
E	/	Humboldt County Sheriff	(707) 445-7251
T	/	California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Eureka	(707) 445-6493
T	/	Humboldt County Parks	(707) 445-7651
T	/	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service-Arcata	(707) 822-7201
T	/	US Fish and Wildlife Service-Arcata Field Office	(707) 822-7201

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:

Preventing oil from spreading into the upper end of the estuary on the flood tide is the primary goal of responding at this location.

No booming response is feasible when river discharge is high, a condition that is typical during winter months. Additionally, winter storms can occur here almost year round, so be aware of the recent and predicted weather patterns before deploying equipment in this dynamic estuary.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Crab Park, Cannibal Island Rd and other access roads may be flooded and closed during high water and runoff periods. 4WD and ATV access from beach.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: III**

Strategy: 1-260.1 Objective: Make an on-site evaluation before equipment call out or deployment.

Strategy: Perform a site evaluation or overflight to determine if conditions will allow any field response under prevailing conditions. Weather forecasts for floods, waves, winds, and tides must be considered before any deployment.

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Strategy: 1-260.2 Objective: Primary strategy: Boom slough mouths and the upriver end of the estuary when conditions near the mouth precludes successful booming.

Strategy: A. Boom the mouth of North Bay Slough north of the river mouth by booming at a diagonal from the tip of the north spit to collection near the large stump upstream on the Crab Park shore. (700 ft 8X8+ boom, 4 25lb+ anchors)

B. Boom the main channel (two layers) at an angle to strand oil on the shore near the bridge across the Eel to Cock Robin Island. (3500 ft 8X8+ boom, 8 25lb+ anchors)

C. Exclude oil from Salt River and adjacent southern sloughs: exclusion boom at a diagonal or chevron. (400 ft boom, 6 25lb anchors). This strategy was adapted after a field deployment here 8/25/05.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	4600 feet				<i>Strategy Updated:</i>
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		18		<i>Last Test: 8/25/2005</i>
boat	Boom Boat			1		
boat	Skiff			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			12		
Staff	Staff to Tend			6		

ATVs are useful at this site

Strategy: 1-260.3 Objective: No booming necessary when there is high volume flood outflow.

Strategy:

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Strategy: 1-260.4 Objective: When oil is overwashing the beach berm, deploy short diversion segments to ground oil to back of berm

Strategy: Deploy six 100-ft segments of boom along the back of the berm to divert overwashing oil to shore during the flood tide. Select boom locations at best available locations and angles under prevailing conditions to collect oil. (6X6+ boom)

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Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	600 feet				
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		12		

Strategy: 1-260.5 Objective: Hazing: keep sensitive species off haulout and roosting areas

Strategy: Pursue hazing to discourage wildlife use of spit. Contact OWCN hazing staff and USFWS for further actions if necessary. Passive hazing is recommended.

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Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
boat				1		

Logistics:

Directions: From Eureka go south on Hwy 101 for 11-miles to the Loleta Hookton Rd Exit 696. For access to the south end of the estuary, turn left on Eel River Rd, then right on Cannibal Island Rd and continue 5-miles to Crab Park. For access on the north end of the estuary, take the same Loleta Hookton Road Exit 696 and continue on west on Hookton Road which becomes Table Bluff Road until it reaches the beach. 4WD access to the mouth of the river is possible by heading south from an unimproved road behind dunes at the bottom of Table Bluff. It may also be possible to drive south along the waveslope.

Land Access: Trucks can access Crab Park and Cock Robin Island with small parking areas at each. 4WD, ATV and foot access on beach from Table Bluff County Park and Eel River Wildlife Area.

On-Water Limitations: Small boat launch off the beach. Shallow, with sand bars. Small boat ramp at Pedrazzini Park on Cock Robin Island Rd. Beach launch at Crab Park.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: No facilities at Crab Park or Pedrazzini Park. No services available. Ok for local response equipment.

Communications Problems:

Additional Operational Comments: For Eel River flow gauge information see: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11479560/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D>

