

**1-273-A Site Summary - Cape Mendocino****1-273-A****County:** Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment:** HM - K - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18623**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 40.44015 -124.40947**Site Description:**

Offshore rocks in the area are managed by the BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Shoreline is either in private ownership or managed by BLM's Arcata Field Office. This is a very popular recreational and commercial fishing area for groundfish and salmon. Site is associated with the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Sugarloaf Island Special Closure. Offshore rocks, gravel beaches, and open water.

Seabird rookeries (Sugarloaf Island). 2002 estimates: Western gull (~260), pigeon guillemot (~170), black oystercatcher, Brandt's (~290) and pelagic (~620) cormorants, tufted puffin (SSC) and double-crested cormorant (~270), all are year-round. Steller sea lion pupping area (05-07) > 12,000 pups surveyed. Harbor seal pupping area (03-09) and haulouts (01-12); although usually not in large numbers, salmonids including coho (FT,ST) and chinook salmon (FT) and steelhead (FT) often forage in the nearshore environment and can be impacted by oiling; groundfish (EFH).

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 1A Exposed Rocky Shore

6A Gravel Beach

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Birds	tufted puffin	FP, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Sep
Birds	bird rookeries		Year-round	Mar-Sep
Mammals	Steller sea lion	FP	Year-round	May-Aug
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	Mar-May
Mammals	California sea lion	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
E	/	Humboldt County Sheriff	(707) 445-7251
T	/	Bureau of Land Management	(707) 825-2300
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:**

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](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:**

The rugged coastline will prevent onshore response over most of this area. Off-site measures including dispersants should be considered when a spill threatens to impact this area. Overflights should be careful to maintain flight path and altitude clearance distances that are large enough to prevent the flushing of birds and marine mammals from their nests, roosts, and haulouts on the offshore rocks in this area.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Mattole Road is winding with several blind curves, proceed with caution. High energy shoreline, extreme currents, offshore rocks.

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

**Strategy: 1-273.1 Objective:** No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

**Strategy:** Conventional on-scene response is not possible at this site. Protect with off-site response measures only.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update****Logistics:**

**Directions:** From Eureka, take Hwy 101 south and take Fernbridge/Ferndale Exit 692, continue on this road, turn right onto bridge on route 211 and follow Main St through Ferndale. Turn right on Ocean then left onto Mattole Road (2 lane road may be reduced to 1 lane road in spots) toward and past Capetown and Bear River. Foot access from Mattole Road near Singley Creek. Must obtain access permission from private landowner here at Ocean House Ranch.

**Land Access:** Tide may block egress from far side of cliff

**On-Water Limitations:** No launch in area

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

**Communications Problems:** Remote, limited communications

**Additional Operational Comments:**

