

**1-285-A Site Summary - Mattole River****1-285-A****County:** Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment:** HM - K - S04 HM - L - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18623**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 40.29276 -124.35446**Site Description:**

This site includes the Mattole River estuary or seasonal lagoon and the bordering marshes along the southern margin. Site is part of the King Range National Conservation Area managed by BLM and is associated with BLM's Rocks and Islands Wilderness. This site has a complex estuary that is open and closed (by sand berm) to tidal action by seasonal hydrological events. There are about 5-acres of alder and herbacious freshwater marshes along the southwest margin of the estuary, and a campground and picnic area at the end of the access road. This site is also the northern trailhead for BLM's Lost Coast Trail and can have high public use seasonally.

The Mattole River mouth changes seasonally according to prevailing hydrological events. The highly sensitive estuarine habitat should be protected from oiling when possible.

Shorebirds, seabirds, wading birds, waterfowl. California brown pelican (04-11), bald eagle (SE) and peregrine falcon; both (01-12). Marine mammals. Anadromous salmonids include coho (FT,ST) and chinook (FT) salmon, steelhead (FT): spawning runs (08-06), juveniles/smolts (02-08), Pacific lamprey (SSC), foothill yellow-legged frogs (SSC), beach layia (FE,SE).

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 4 Coarse-grained sand beaches

7 Exposed tidal flat

6A Gravel Beach

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Presence</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>
Amphibians	foothill yellow-legged frog	SE, SSC	Year-round	Apr-Jul
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Fish	chinook salmon - California coastal	FT	Year-round	
Fish	coho salmon - north of Punta Gorda	FT, ST	Year-round	
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	
Fish	Pacific lamprey	SSC	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:**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Name/Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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	/	Bureau of Land Management, King Range	(707) 986-5400
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](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 south side is an alder and marsh wetland which would be extremely difficult to clean up. Keep oil out of wetland and deflect to bare sand or gravel areas where ecological impacts will be minimal. Because birds and other wildlife use the water surface and presence of listed fish the lagoon, minimize the spread of oil and confine by booming to near shorelines.

**Hazard and Restrictions:****Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 1-285.1 Objective:** Primary: When mouth is open, threatening oiling with tidal inflow, exclusion-deflection booming to collection at southern corner of estuary.

**Strategy:** Deploy boom from the cliff headland on the north to the opening of the marshy channel at the southern corner. Angle the boom across the current to minimize entrainment of oil and maximize oil movement into a collection area at the margin. Use pom-poms or oil snare to retain and immobilize oil. Evaluate for mechanical collection needs.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	1000 feet				
Other Boom	Pom-pom	100 feet				
Anchor	Danforth	16+ lb		4		

**Strategy: 1-285.2 Objective:** Alternative: When mouth is open and there are winds exceeding 20 knots west, threatening oiling with tidal inflow, exclusion-deflection booming to collection along the north shoreline.

**Strategy:** Deploy boom from the southern spit to the bar or any other vantage point on the north bank where oil can be landed. Retain oil with pom-poms until more effective measures can be installed. Vehicle access to the north bank may be difficult or impossible (to ford). Cascade 1000 ft sections of swamp boom or larger (3000 ft)

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	3000 feet				
Other Boom	Pom-pom	100 feet				
Anchor	Danforth	16+ lb				

**Strategy: 1-285.3 Objective:** When outflows are heavy, little oil can enter; deploy precautionary booming of small slough at southwest corner

**Strategy:** Boom the slough at southwest corner with 100 ft of swamp boom. Secure with stakes.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	100 feet				
Stakes						

**Strategy: 1-285.4 Objective:** When the berm is intact but surge is overwashing it, install boom on back side of berm and collect the oil.

**Strategy:** Stake a layer of swamp boom along the back side of any berm washover, positioning it so that oil can be collected at the southerly end. Use oilsnare to retain and immobilize oil.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	1000	feet			
Other Boom	Pom-pom	100	feet			
Stakes						

**Strategy: 1-285.5 Objective:** Alternative when berm is intact and oil is overwashing, berm and collect oil on back slope of berm using runnel.

**Strategy:** Using excavating equipment, build-up the berm using sediments on downslope and high areas. Runnel will collect any oil which overflows. Plastic may be necessary to line front face to minimize further overwash erosion.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Skiploader				1		
Plastic sheeting		200	feet			

### Logistics:

**Directions:** From Eureka, go south on Hwy 101, take Fernbridge Ferndale Exit 692, turn right onto bridge and follow Route 211 through Ferndale and follow signs to Petrolia, turn right on Ocean, then left onto Mattole Road (2 lane road may be reduced to 1 lane in spots). Follow Mattole Road through Petrolia for 30-miles, turn right onto Lighthouse Road and follow to end. This road parallels river to the mouth.

**Land Access:** Lock gate access, with easy access for all vehicles

**On-Water Limitations:** Shallows across beach launch at campground. Launch at ford to bar on north upstream.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** This area is suitable for local equipment staging. A campground with toilets at southwest corner, with non-potable(?) water available. No other services are available. The northern trail access for the 26-mile long Lost Coast Trail in the King Range National Conservation Area begins here.

**Communications Problems:** Remote, limited communications

**Additional Operational Comments:** This river mouth is highly dynamic and site evaluation will be necessary prior to equipment deployment. For Mattole River flow gauge information see: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11469000/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D>

