

**1-298-B Site Summary - Shelter Cove and Cormorant Hotel****1-298-B****County:** Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment:** HM - L - S02**NOAA Chart:** 18620**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 40.02667 -124.07704**Site Description:**

Shelter Cove is an isolated and small community on the Southern Humboldt coast. Humboldt Bay Harbor District oversees the boat launch facility here for the Shelter Cove Fishing Preservation Incorporated to manage locally. Public lands surround the community and are managed by the BLM as part of the King Range National Conservation Area. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument and the associated Rocks and Islands Wilderness. This is a very popular recreational and commercial fishing area for groundfish and salmon. Rocky headlands, offshore rocks.

Shelter Cove is a small, unprotected harbor that is surrounded by high energy beaches and rocky cliffs. Minimal on-scene response during rare low sea state conditons only. The coastline and offshore rocks in the area provide potential habitat for seabird colonies and marine mammal haulouts. Seabird rookery: pelagic cormorant (as many as 280 observed); 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); sensitive plants including perennial goldfields, Whitney's farewell-to-spring (both CNPS 1B).

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

4 Coarse-grained sand beaches

6A Gravel Beach

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	bird rookeries		Year-round	Mar-Sep
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Birds	pelagic cormorant	FP	Year-round	Mar-Sep
Birds	western gull	FP	Year-round	Mar-Sep
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
E	/	Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District	(707) 986-1400
T	/	Bureau of Land Management	(707) 825-2300
T	/	Bureau of Land Management, Coastal Natl. Monum	(831) 582-2200
T	/	Bureau of Land Management, King Range	(707) 986-5400
T	/	California Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Fort Bragg	(707) 964-9078
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:**

Extreme current, high energy shoreline, offshore rocks

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

**Strategy: 1-298.1 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:** From Eureka, go south on Hwy 101. Take Redway Exit 639B at M.P. 11.653 and follow Redwood Dr into to Redway, turn right on Shelter Cove - Briceland Road. Continue on this road through Whitethorn Junction (large fork in the road). Do not turn. Continue on Shelter Cove Road into Shelter Cove. Follow the city road paralleling the coastline.

**Land Access:** Drive on access in Shelter Cove, ATV access at the Lost Coast Trail

**On-Water Limitations:** Beach boat launching available and larger boat launch at Shelter Cove Marina

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Staging for large local response equipment is available at Shelter Cove. Lodging, camping areas, water, phone, fuel, and food are all available in the local area. Additional staging is available nearby at Black Sands Beach. This beach is at the southern end of the Lost Coast Trail in the Kings Range National Conservation Area.

**Communications Problems:** Remote, limited communications

