

**County:** Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment:** HM - G - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18622**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 40.7674 -124.2171**Site Description:**

This response site extends from the cove directly north of the Samoa County Park south about one mile including beaches inside of the USCG Station and toward the north jetty. The public campground and launching ramp facility should be utilized as the staging area of operations for response crews working at this site. The park is managed by Humboldt County. BLM manages the Samoa Dunes Recreation Area (aka North Spit) to the south. Near the mouth of the bay there are a series of coves or pocket beaches where floating debris will naturally be deposited by eddies formed on the outgoing tidal currents. Accumulation of floating debris and oil for collection can be enhanced by the addition of short lengths of boom that extend from shore into the current.

There are multiple subtidal aquaculture sites along the west side of the Samoa Channel and baywater intakes at Redwood Marine Terminal II and Red Tank Docks that supply upland aquaculture and other industrial users nearby. See the Humboldt Bay Shoreline Response Plan for additional information and site contact information for aquaculture.

This area on Humboldt Bay provides important habitat and is a high bird use area year-round. Resources at risk that can be protected using this strategy include seabirds and shorebirds, waterfowl and marine mammals that can be impacted if floating oil leaves the bay on an outgoing tide. Resources inside the bay include cultured oysters, waterfowl, and encrusting intertidal organisms, brant (SSC), waterbirds and shorebirds occur in greater numbers in the fall, winter, and spring (some year round). In winter it is not unusual for over 100,000 birds to use the bay as a feeding or resting site. Offshore birds that are threatened when there is oil in the bay include marbled murrelets (FT, SE), tufted puffins (SSC), brown pelicans, cormorants, ducks, grebes, gulls and loons. Raptors include bald eagle (SE), northern harrier, osprey and peregrine falcon. Marine mammals found in the bay include on occasion, porpoises and whales, but more commonly harbor seals and California sea lions. Humboldt Bay oyster (Pacific, Kumamoto) and clam aquaculture, north bay is home to a large oyster seed production and grow out operation. Care should be taken to minimize impacts to these resources. There are extensive eelgrass beds and mudflats exposed on low tides. Humboldt Bay fisheries include coho (FT, ST) and chinook (FT) salmon, steelhead (FT), coastal cutthroat trout (SSC), green sturgeon (FT, SSC), groundfish (EFH), Dungeness crab, eulachon (FE), longfin smelt (ST), tidewater goby (FE, SSC, Critical Habitat), Pacific herring spawn on eelgrass. Sensitive vegetation in the area includes beach layia, Menzies' wallflower (both FE, SE, CNPS 1B.1), pink sand-verbena (CNPS 1B.1), and dark-eyed gilia (CNPS 1B.2); western bumble bee.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

8B Sheltered solid man-made structures

8C Sheltered riprap

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Fish	green sturgeon - Southern	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	longfin smelt	ST	Year-round	
Fish	eulachon	FT	Year-round	
Fish	Pacific lamprey	SSC	Year-round	
Fish	salmonids		Year-round	
Plants	beach layia	FE, SE	Year-round	Mar-Jul
Plants	Menzies' wallflower	FE, SE	Year-round	Mar-Apr

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
O	/	Humboldt Bay Harbor District	(707) 443-0801
O	/	PG&E, Humboldt Bay Generating Station	(707) 269-1800
T	/	Bureau of Land Management	(707) 825-2300
T	/	Humboldt County Parks	(707) 445-7651
T	/	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service-Arcata	(707) 822-7201
T	/	US Army Corp of Engineers, Eureka	(707) 443-0855
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:**

Oil that is not captured here on out going tides will threaten offshore marine birds and many miles of shoreline. Avoid anchor impacts to eelgrass beds.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Swift currents in the channels and south towards the entrance of Humboldt Bay can create hazards to navigation even when sea conditions are otherwise calm. Ship traffic near response site. Submerged hazard just north of Samoa Campground launch not visible at high tide and shallow hazards exist near breakwaters south of the Coast Guard Station.

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

**Strategy: 1-305.1 Objective:** Notify PG&E when oil threatens King Salmon

*Strategy:* Objective: Notify PG&E Humboldt Bay Generating Station when oil threatens King Salmon. Call (707) 269-1800 (24hours).

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update**

**Strategy: 1-305.2 Objective:** Collect oil at natural collection sites to minimize the spread of oil around the bay and to prevent oil from exiting the bay

*Strategy:* Collect oil at natural collection sites to minimize the spread of oil around the bay and to prevent oil from exiting the bay. Install deflection boom at USCG Cove, USCG boat station, Samoa boat launching ramp, and other sites where natural collection can be enhanced with strategic boom deployments. This booming strategy will be most effective on the ebb tide.

Note: Skimming will need to begin as soon as that equipment can be brought to these collection points, but will not be critical until oil begins to collect in skimmable amounts at the various collection points. The installation of the deflection-to-collection booms should be the primary focus of the initial response efforts that are prescribed in this strategy.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	2000 feet				<i>Strategy Updated:</i>
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		10		<i>Last Test: 10/4/2018</i>
boat	Boom Boat or Skiff			2		
skimmer	SSS/SPS			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			8		

**Strategy: 1-305.3 Objective:** On water skimming of free floating oil

*Strategy:* On-water skimming of free floating oil. Use self propelled skimmers to begin oil recovery in areas where oil is still concentrated.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
skimmer	SPS			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			3		

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* Humboldt Bay is adjacent to Highway 101, near the cities of Arcata and Eureka. Highway 255 passes over it on the north end. This site is accessible by land by driving toward Samoa on Highway 255 and taking New Navy Base Road south to the Samoa Campground and Boat Launch. This response site extends from the cove directly north of the campground south about one mile to the jetty including the pocket beaches south of the USCG Station.

*Land Access:* Large trucks can access much of this area. Gated access south of USCG station is locked at sunset.

*On-Water Limitations:* The water near shore is shallow, but otherwise navigable. Trailered boats can be launched directly at this site at the county boat ramp. Expect swift currents in channel when launching. Submerged hazards immediately

north of the ramp and in Coast Guard Cove near breakwater.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* The Samoa Campground has restrooms and water and may be suitable for local staging.

*Communications Problems:* none

*Additional Operational Comments:* This collection strategy will be most effective to recover oil spilled within Humboldt Bay on the ebb tide. Strategy 1-305.2 was tested in October 2018 and no changes were warranted. The use of a BoomVane was evaluated here in 2014 and was found effective to hold boom in place for collection on ebb tides but required a vessel to deploy.

