

County: Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment:** HM - G - S12 HM - G - S13**NOAA Chart:** 18622**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 40.7714 -124.1973**Site Description:**

This site extends from the mouth of the Elk River on Humboldt Bay and includes the tidal marsh complex upstream. This site is within the City of Eureka and is also known as the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary managed by the city. High public use area daily as Eureka's Hikshari' Trail lies adjacent to the estuary. Tidal influence extends well upstream of the Highway 101 bridge. The inlet consists of sheltered tidal flats with eelgrass beds. Elk River spit AKA Stinky Beach is fine- to medium-grained sand.

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.

The Elk River estuary has extensive wetlands and saltmarsh habitats that would be difficult to clean-up if oiled. High bird use area year-round. Excluding oil from the estuary on the flood tide is of primary concern. Extensive salt marsh system upstream and wetlands are vulnerable to oiling. Sensitive natural resources nearby include waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds including herons and egrets, seabirds and waterbirds including brown pelican, grebes, gulls, kingfishers, loons, cormorants; brant (SSC) present nearby Nov-Apr; raptors include bald eagle (SE), northern harrier, osprey, and peregrine falcon. Marine mammals include harbor seals and river otters; fish include eulachon (FT), green sturgeon (FT,SSC), longfin smelt (ST), Pacific lamprey (SSC); anadromous salmonids including chinook (FT) and coho salmon (FT,ST), coastal cutthroat trout (SSC) and steelhead (FT): spawning runs (08-06), juveniles/smolts (02-08); tidewater goby (FE, SSC, Critical Habitat), Pacific herring spawn on eelgrass, Dungeness crab, groundfish (EFH), larval and juvenile flatfishes and herring utilize this area and other non-commercial fish species utilize the eelgrass beds nearby; there are smaller eelgrass beds in slough and extensive eelgrass beds nearby in Humboldt Bay; sensitive vegetation nearby includes beach layia and Menzies' wallflower (both FE,SE, CNPS 1B.1), dark-eyed and Pacific gilia, Humboldt Bay owl's-clover, Point Reyes salty bird's-beak, short-leaved evax, and Siskiyou checkerbloom (all CNPS 1B.2).

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

9A Sheltered tidal flats

8C Sheltered riprap

8B Sheltered solid man-made structures

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Fish	longfin smelt	ST	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	Pacific lamprey	SSC	Year-round	
Fish	green sturgeon - Southern	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	eulachon	FT	Year-round	
Fish	salmonids		Year-round	
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
E	/	City of Eureka	(707) 441-4203
E	/	Eureka Police Department	(707) 441-4044
O	/Terminal Manager	Chevron Marine Terminal	(707) 444-7850
O	/	Humboldt Bay Harbor District	(707) 443-0801
T	/Agency Representative	California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Eureka	(707) 445-6493
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:

Oiling of sloughs and marsh complex could cause long term damage to important habitats. Avoid anchoring in eelgrass beds.

Hazard and Restrictions:

There is extensive shoaling in this area, and a significant number of potentially submerged pilings from an old trestle in the mouth of the river. Homeless camps in vicinity.

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

Strategy: 1-345.1 Objective: Shut key-locked tide gates on Pound Road to prevent tidal exchange.

Strategy: Keys are available from City of Eureka Public Works Office. This strategy is only applicable if oil has already entered the river and is upstream of the mouth and/or if primary booming strategies cannot be safely deployed.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Key or Bolt Cutters				1		<i>Strategy Updated:</i> 5/30/2018
Staff				2		<i>Last Test:</i>

Strategy: 1-345.2 Objective: Boom the mouth of Elk River to exclude oil.

Strategy: Exclusion boom the river mouth and collect oil if possible.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	1400 feet				<i>Strategy Updated:</i> 5/30/2018
Boom	Sorbent	300 feet				<i>Last Test:</i> 3/18/2014
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		5		
Boat	Skiff			1		
Staff				4		

Strategy: 1-345.3 Objective: Collect oil when enough is present to skim.

Strategy: Use a skimmer to collect oil from off the water.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Skimmer	SSS/SPS			1		<i>Strategy Updated:</i> 5/30/2018
Staff				2		<i>Last Test:</i>

Strategy: 1-345.4 Objective: Boom the mouth of Elk River to exclude oil.

Strategy: Connect harbor boom from south end of Chevron Pier to north end of Elk River sand spit. Connect swamp boom from east shore of bay near Truesdale Street to south end of Chevron Pier to complete exclusion of estuary. This would be an alternative to strategy #2 at this site and is intended to replace that strategy as the primary deployment for this site. The original strategy will remain as an alternative that could be used when or if this strategy is not feasible, or as a second layer of protection.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor			2000	feet	<i>Strategy Updated:</i> 5/30/2018
Boom	Swamp			800	feet	<i>Last Test:</i> 3/23/2016
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		9		
Boat	Boom Boat			1		
Boat	Skiff			1		
Staff				5		

Logistics:

Directions: There is access to the river mouth from the foot of Truesdale Street off Highway 101 (South Broadway Street) just south of the Bayshore Mall. There is secondary access from Highway 101 just upstream at the foot of Hilfiker Lane. From Highway 101, turn right at the "Coastal Access" sign at Hilfiker Lane and continue west to the end.

Land Access: Accessible to all vehicle types including heavy equipment. Contact City of Eureka to facilitate access from Coastal Trail. Elk River Spit aka Stinky Beach is accessible by foot from Herrick Lane exit and Pound Road.

On-Water Limitations: The water depth is variable with submerged pilings. Access is possible from Humboldt Bay with shallow draft vessels recommended for this response location. Nearest launch on Waterfront Drive.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: There are small parking lots and restrooms near the foots of Truesdale and Hilfiker streets where local response equipment and supplies could be staged for a response at this site. Larger lots at Bayshore mall.

Communications Problems: none

Additional Operational Comments: Shallow sloughs, extensive mudflats. Depth limitations may complicate vessel access. Easier to deploy boom at higher tides (3'+). Boom can be launched from shore from Hikshari' Trail vicinity on Hilfiker Ln; contact City of Eureka for access.

