

**1-350-A Site Summary - South Humboldt Bay****1-350-A****County:** Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment:** HM - G - S15**NOAA Chart:** 18622**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 40.70545 -124.23927**Site Description:**

This is the primary protection site to intercept and collect oil moving south on the incoming tide in Fields Landing Channel toward Hookton Channel and further into South Humboldt Bay toward sensitive habitats including Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The response site is located south of King Salmon near the Fields Landing Boat Ramp and on private property near the Humboldt Bay Forest Products dock, north of the boat ramp. Large estuary complex with extensive marshes, eelgrass meadows, and sheltered tidal flats exposed at low tide.

This is a high bird use area year-round with extensive eelgrass meadows. South Humboldt Bay is home to the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge which provides habitat for hundreds of species and thousands of individual birds including migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Birds are a concern throughout the year. Coastal seabirds, wading birds, waterfowl. Important for stopover for brant in winter before migration to breeding grounds; California brown pelican (04-11), marbled murrelet (FT,SE); raptors including bald eagle (SE), northern harrier, osprey, peregrine falcon (all 01-12). Marine mammals including harbor seal haulouts for molting and pupping nearby, river otters; anadromous salmonids including coastal cutthroat trout (SSC), chinook (FT) and coho (FT,ST) salmon, steelhead (FT): spawning runs (08-06), juveniles/smolts (pass through bay), larval and juvenile fish use area as rearing habitat; eulachon (FT), green sturgeon (FT,SSC); groundfish (EFH), longfin smelt (ST). Benthic invertebrates including several recreationally important clam species; Dungeness crab. Sensitive plant nearby include pink sand-verbena (CNPS 1B.1), Point Reyes salty bird's-beak (CNPS 1B.2), and western lily (FE,SE, CNPS 1B.1).

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 8C Sheltered riprap

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

8B Sheltered solid man-made structures

9A Sheltered tidal flats

5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Presence</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Fish	longfin smelt	ST	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	green sturgeon - Southern	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	salmonids		Year-round	
Fish	Pacific lamprey	SSC	Year-round	
Fish	eulachon	FT	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	Feb-Apr
Plants	beach layia	FE, SE	Year-round	Mar-Jul
Plants	western lily	FE, SE	Year-round	Jun-Jul

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	/	Humboldt County Sheriff	(707) 445-7251
O	/	Humboldt Bay Harbor District	(707) 443-0801
O	/	PG&E, Humboldt Bay Generating Station	(707) 269-1800
T	/	Humboldt Bay NWR Complex	(707) 733-5406
T	/	Humboldt County Parks	(707) 445-7651
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:**

Oiling of slough and marsh complexes in South Humboldt Bay could cause long term damage to important habitats including Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Avoid anchoring in eelgrass beds.

This strategy will be most effective on flood tides to prevent oil from reaching further into South Humboldt Bay. Vessel traffic in channel may complicate response; be prepared to allow vessel passage.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Extensive mudflats, swift current in channel. Humboldt Bay Forest Products Dock is a deteriorating and may pose safety hazards to responders, exercise caution if accessing the dock. F/V Dennis Gayle is submerged near Fields Landing Channel at the Humboldt Bay Forest Products Dock and marked with a buoy. Private property.

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

**Strategy: 1-350.1 Objective:** Deploy boom to strand oil on the shoreline or collect for skimming.

**Strategy:** Deflection boom oil to collection sites on the shoreline or skim from the water surface in South Humboldt Bay. Deploy multiple boom sets into the channel to intercept oil and improve recovery near Fields Landing Boat Launch and Humboldt Bay Forest Products dock and other areas as appropriate nearby.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
boom	Harbor	1200 feet				
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		5		
boat	Boom			2		
skimmer	SSS			2		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			10		

**Strategy: 1-350.2 Objective:** On water recovery

**Strategy:** Begin on water recovery using either a towed boom array or with a towed barge skimmer.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	100 feet				
boat	Skiff			2		
skimmer	SBS			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			2		

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** Access to the shores of South Humboldt Bay are limited by extensive wetland areas and mudflats, with the exception of the developed areas around King Salmon and Fields Landing, and public access at HBNWR and the South Spit. King Salmon: go south on Hwy 101 from Eureka to King Salmon exit 700, go west on King Salmon Ave and Buhne Drive to reach the bay. Fields Landing: go south on Hwy 101 from Eureka to Fields Landing exit 699, take Railroad Avenue west to the end and Fields Landing Boat Ramp. Access to Redwood Forest Products Dock response area through locked gate near end of Railroad Ave, head north to dock and to access shoreline. To reach the west side of South Humboldt Bay: go south on Hwy 101 to Hookton Road exit 696, continue west on Hookton Road to Table Bluff Road; this road will become South Jetty Rd accessing the west side of Humboldt Bay. For HBNWR access: take exit 696 at Hookton Rd and follow signs.

**Land Access:** Vehicle access to King Salmon, Fields Landing, Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge and South Spit. Foot access to Southport Landing from foot of Phelan Rd. Humboldt Bay Forest Products is private property, secure permission before access.

**On-Water Limitations:** A launch ramp at the end of Railroad Ave and travelift at the end of Depot Drive are available in Fields Landing. Depth limitations may complicate vessel access at lower tides.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Large parking lot at Fields Landing Boat Ramp may be appropriate for local staging.

*Communications Problems:* Cell coverage can be spotty near Fields Landing.

