

**1-360-A Site Summary - South Spit****1-360-A**

**County:** Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment:** HM - G - S19 HM - G - S20 HM - G - S21 HM - G - S22  
HM - H - S01

**NOAA Chart:** 18622**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 40.71655 -124.26087**Site Description:**

This site includes the 4.5 mile long sand spit running from the the base of Table Bluff at the south end of Humboldt Bay to the south jetty and the entrance to Humboldt Bay. Land management includes the Mike Thompson Wildlife Area managed by BLM along the sandy spit, the USFWS Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge's shoreline on the bay side, and Table Bluff County Park at the south end of the spit. Access to the north end of CDFW's Eel River Wildlife Area is also possible here. Site is associated with the following State Marine Protected Area: South Humboldt Bay SMRMA. Fine- to medium-grain sand beach on the ocean side backed by vegetated dunes. Exposed and sheltered tidal flats, mudflats and wetlands on interior bay side of spit, rip-rap along the jetty.

This is a high bird use area year-round. The bay side of the spit has extensive wetlands and saltmarsh that would be difficult to clean-up if oil enters that environment. Nesting and wintering western snowy plover on beach side, extensive waterfowl and shorebird habitat on bay side. Waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, wading birds (01-12), large numbers of brant (10-04); California brown pelican (04-11), western snowy plover (FT,FWS Critical Habitat)(01-12), nesting period (03-08) and nests directly on sand within dunes. Harbor seals in bay; eulachon (FT), green sturgeon (FT,SSC), longfin smelt (ST), salmonids including coho (FT,ST) and chinook (FT) salmon, steelhead (FT), and coastal cutthroat trout (SSC): although usually not in large numbers, these salmonids often forage in the nearshore environment and can be impacted by oiling. Extensive eelgrass beds in bay; sensitive plants nearby include beach layia and Menzies' wallflower (both FE,SE, CNPS 1B.1), dark-eyed gilia, Humboldt Bay owl's clover (both CNPS 1B.2).

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

7 Exposed tidal flat

9A Sheltered tidal flats

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

6B Riprap

**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      |                    |
| Birds  | Western snowy plover      | FT, SSC       | Year-round      | Mar-Sep            |
| Fish   | salmonids                 |               | Year-round      |                    |
| Fish   | green sturgeon - Southern | FT, SSC       | Year-round      |                    |
| Fish   | eulachon                  | FT            | Year-round      |                    |
| Fish   | longfin smelt             | ST            | Year-round      |                    |
| Fish   | Pacific lamprey           | SSC           | 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 |
| T    | /                      | Bureau of Land Management                        | (707) 825-2300 |
| T    | /Agency Representative | California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Eureka | (707) 445-6493 |
| 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 sloughs and marsh complexes on bay side could cause long term damage to important habitats. Avoid anchoring in eelgrass beds. Contact BLM prior to initiating any response or clean up here due to presence of western snowy plover on beach and dunes.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Locked gates between dusk and dawn.

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

**Strategy: 1-360.1 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. Conventional on-scene response is not possible at this site. Protect with off-site measures only.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update****Logistics:**

**Directions:** Go south on Hwy 101 from Eureka to Hookton Road exit 68, continue west on Hookton Road to Table Bluff Road; below Table Bluff the road will become South Jetty Road and run the length of the South Jetty terminating at the jetty. The gate key can be obtained by contacting BLM or the Humboldt County Sheriff if necessary to access site after hours.

**Land Access:** All vehicles can access South Spit during daylight hours, call BLM or Humboldt County Sheriff for access after hours.

**On-Water Limitations:** Multiple vessel launches are available on Humboldt Bay in Eureka and Fields Landing

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Small parking lot at Table Bluff County Park and additional lots along South Jetty Road may provide local staging needs.

**Communications Problems:** none

