

1-462-B Site Summary - Mendocino Bay**1-462-B****County:** Mendocino **ACP Division/Segment:** MN - F - S02 MN - F - S03**NOAA Chart:** 18626**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 39.296 -123.80193**Site Description:**

This site is comprised of the small bay south of the headlands and community of Mendocino. The north shoreline of the bay is included in Mendocino Headlands State Park. The estuary and beach parking area are also a part of the State Park (east side of Hwy 1 bridge). Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Large crescent shaped bay opening to the west. Big River enters the ocean at this point. Offshore rocks, wave-cut platforms, fine- to medium-grained sand beaches.

Seabird rookeries (03-09) include Brandt's and pelagic cormorants, black oystercatcher, western gull, pigeon guillemot, tufted puffin (SSC), roosts (01-12). Marine mammals use area for haulouts. Red abalone, groundfish (EFH), kelp. Sensitive plant communities on the bluffs and shoreline nearby include bluff wallflower, coastal bluff morning glory, Mendocino Coast paintbrush, perennial goldfields (all CNPS 1B.2).

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

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	seabirds		Year-round	
Birds	tufted puffin	FP, SSC		Mar-Aug
Mammals	marine mammals	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
O	/24hr	CalFire Howard Forest Emergency Command	(707) 459-5336
O	/	Mendocino County Sheriff's Department	(707) 463-4086
O	/Supervisor Ranger (24hr)	NORCOM State Parks Dispatch	(916) 358-1300
T	/	Bureau of Land Management	(707) 825-2300
T	/Sector Superintendent	California State Parks, Mendocino District	(707) 937-5804
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).

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: 1-462.1 Objective: No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

Strategy: Off-site dispersion may be the only option. Response in this area would be difficult under typical sea conditions. Apply dispersants to off-site oil before it arrives at this sensitive site.

Table of Response Resources

Last Page Update**Logistics:**

Directions: From Hwy 101 at Willits, take state Hwy 20 west to Hwy 1 at Fort Bragg and go south through Mendocino. Turn left before crossing the bridge over Big River onto North Big River Road, follow road downhill .2 mile to parking lot. At low tide, vehicles could access mouth of river by proceeding along beach appx. .5 mile. At higher tides, no access to mouth is possible by vehicle.

Land Access: Most of Mendocino Bay's shoreline is inaccessible due to steep bluffs and private property. Shoreline is most accessible from Big River Beach.

On-Water Limitations: Small boat launch at Big River

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Limited

Communications Problems:

