

**1-480-C Site Summary - Irish Gulch****1-480-C****County:** Mendocino **ACP Division/Segment:** MN - H - S02 MN - H - S03**NOAA Chart:** 18620**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 39.02021 -123.69113**Site Description:**

Irish Gulch is a small stream with a small tidal estuary and beach backed with large amounts of woody debris. Private access to beach owned/managed by Irish Beach Rental Agency. Seasonal inlet to Irish Gulch. Access is restricted by locked gates and separate one way roads up and down to the beach.

The small estuary and marsh provides habitat for many kinds of waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds that forage there year-round. Salmonid migrations through the estuary would occur mostly during high water flow events during winter and spring. Shorebirds, seabirds, raptors; Point Arena mountain beaver (FE) habitat nearby; Anadromous salmonids include chinook (FT) and coho salmon (FE,SE), steelhead (FT): spawning runs (09-06), juveniles/smolts (02-08); groundfish (EFH), southern torrent salamander (SSC) upstream in marsh. Sensitive plant communities including Mendocino Coast paintbrush, perennial goldfields (both CNPS 1B.2).

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

2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

6A Gravel Beach

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Amphibians	Southern torrent salamander	SSC	Year-round	
Birds	shorebirds		Year-round	
Birds	seabirds		Year-round	
Birds	raptors		Year-round	
Fish	coho salmon - south of Punta Gorda	FE, SE	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Fish	chinook salmon - Winter-run	FE, SE	Year-round	Oct-May
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	Nov-May
Mammals	Pt. Arena mountain beaver	FE	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
E	/	Irish Beach Rental Agency	(707) 882-2467
O	/24hr	CalFire Howard Forest Emergency Command	(707) 459-5336
O	/	Mendocino County Sheriff's Department	(707) 463-4086
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:**

Irish Beach is a natural collection point for large woody debris. This material can become a long term source for re-oiling once oiled which can greatly increase the long term damage to the environment unless it is prevented from becoming oiled, or removed and disposed of once it is oiled.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

One way roads to beach with controlled access: contact Irish Beach Rental Agency.

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

**Strategy: 1-480.1 Objective:** Shoreline Pre-Clean: Resource Specialist Supervision Required

**Strategy:** Pre-clean the beach of heavy woody debris before oil arrives. Using heavy equipment, move large woody debris above the swash line. UC should pre-evaluate the execution of this activity since the site is large, remote, and the debris load extremely heavy.

Table of Response Resources

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

**Directions:** Take Hwy 101 north to Hwy 128 just north of Cloverdale, follow Hwy 128 to Hwy 1, go south on Hwy 1, exit west onto Irish Beach Dr at M.P. 25.37, turn left and downhill onto a very narrow single lane road with sharp switchbacks. Exit the beach (road is marked) along a similar road that tends to have fewer turns. The exit is at M.P. 25.57. The exit road would serve as an access road for a front end loader or bulldozer. The access road is gated and a key must be obtained from Irish Beach Rental Agency at about M.P. 25.37.

**Land Access:** Locked gate access. Contact Irish Beach Rental Agency first. 707-882-2467.

**On-Water Limitations:** none

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** none

**Communications Problems:** Remote, limited communications

**Additional Operational Comments:** Precleaning at this site may save a lot of disposal or clean up costs if black oil threatens this beach. Large amounts of heavy woody debris often collect on this beach. Moving this material above the high tide line before oil arrives should be considered when and if response time allows.

