

County: **Humboldt**

USGS Quad:

Thomas Guide Location

CA Road Atlas

NOAA Chart:

Latitude N

Longitude W

Last Page Update :

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes the tidal estuaries of White Slough and Salmon Creek where they enter South Humboldt Bay. This site is within Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Large estuary complex with extensive marshes, eelgrass meadows, and sheltered tidal flats exposed at low tide.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

This is a high bird use area year round.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Extensive marsh and salmonid habitat lie upstream of this area. The estuary has extensive wetlands and saltmarsh that would be difficult to clean-up if oil enters that environment.

Wading birds, shorebirds, waterfowl (01-12), migratory waterfowl and shorebirds (10-04); brant (10-06), Kingfishers, Egrets, raptors including bald eagle (SE), peregrine falcon, osprey (01-12). Double crested cormorant nesting colony on Teal Island (03-08)

harbor seals, river otters

Anadromous salmonids: Coho (FT,ST) and Chinook (ST) salmon, Steelhead (ST) and Coastal cutthroat (SSC) trouts:

- spawning runs (08-06)
- juveniles/smolts (02-08)

Tidewater goby (FE,SSC), FWS Critical Habitat

Longfin smelt (ST)

Pacific herring spawn on eelgrass (11-03).

eelgrass beds

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

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) 653-4082 and State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or Ms. Vicki Bates, Coordinator of the North Coast Information Center (707) 482-1822.

KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
C	Briana Fraley	Table Bluff Reservation Wiyot Tribe	(707) 733-5055
T	Ken Griggs Deputy Refuge Manager	Humboldt Bay NWR Complex-24 hr cell #2	(707) 499-2397
O	Suzie Howser Dock Master	Humboldt Bay Harbor District	(707) 443-0801
T	Eric Nelson Refuge Manager	Humboldt Bay NWR Complex-24 hour cell	(707) 498-5406
T	Eric Nelson Refuge Manager	Humboldt Bay NWR Complex	(707) 733-5406
O	Troy Nicolini	National Weather Service Woodley Island	(707) 442-2171

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).

1-352 -A Site Strategy - White Slough & Salmon Creek

County and Thomas Guide Location

NOAA CHART

1-352 -A

Latitude N Longitude W

CA Road Atlas Humboldt

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

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. Contact HBNWR for assistance prior to initiating any response here.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

The soft mud can be challenging to boom deployment workers.

SITE STRATEGIES

Extensive mudflats may complicate vessel access at low tide. Recommend boom be deployed at higher tides. Several large tide gates on HBNWR may warrant additional protective boom to protect marsh habitats. Contact HBNWR staff for guidance.

Strategy 1-352.1 Objective: Prevent oil from entering the slough

Use 600' of hard boom, deliverable to site at Hookton Slough small boat launch off Hookton Road. Small, shallow draft vessel can be launched here to deploy boom to site.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or comment	staff deploy	Staff tend
1-352.1	600	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	4	Anchor stakes	6	

LOGISTICS

DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)

This site can be reached by driving south from Eureka on Highway 101. Take the Hookton Road exit from Highway 101 at the south end of the Bay. To the Hookton Slough trailhead, drive 1.2 miles west on Hookton Road; the parking area is on the north side of Hookton Road. This site includes the tidal estuaries of White Slough and Salmon Creek where they enter South Humboldt Bay. This site is within Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

LAND ACCESS: Vehicle access to levees on both sides of Salmon Creek.

WATER LOGISTICS: Extensive mudflats may complicate vessel access.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: small skiff launch off Hookton Road

FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

Small parking lot at boat launch may provide local staging needs

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: Locked gates to access levees, contact HBNWR.

