

County: **Mendocino**  
 USGS Quad: **Mendocino**

Thomas Guide Location  
 CA Road Atlas  
 NOAA Chart: **18626**

Latitude N  
 39 18'  
 Longitude W  
 123 47' 30"

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

#### SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes the tidal estuary where Big River enters Mendocino Bay. Portion of north shoreline, upstream of State Highway 1 bridge is within Mendocino Headlands State Park. Wide, sandy tidal inlet with well developed marsh complex upstream along channel margins. Strong tidal currents.

#### SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

#### RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The estuary provides habitat for many kinds of ducks and shorebirds that forage there year round. Salmonid migrations through the estuary would occur mostly during high water flow events during winter and spring.

Area is visited by foraging shorebirds and seabirds. Osprey (01-12)

Pt. Arena Mountain Beaver (FE,SSC)

Coho salmon (FE,SE) and Steelhead (FT):

- spawning runs (09-06)
- juveniles/smolts (02-08)

Tidewater goby (FE,SSC)

River serves as Dungeness crab nursery at times

Herring spawn on Eelgrass

Eelgrass in estuary

#### 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. Leigh Jordan, Coordinator of the Northwest Information Center (707) 588-8455.

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

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
O		NORCOM State Parks Dispatch 24-hours	(916) 358-1300
T		California State Parks Mendocino District	(707) 937-5804
O		Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept.	(707) 463-4086
T		California Dept of Fish and Game, Fort Bragg	(707) 964-9078
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](http://www.californiacoastline.org)).

# 1-460 -A Site Strategy - Big River

County and Thomas Guide Location  
CA Road Atlas Mendocino

NOAA CHART  
18626

1-460 -A  
Latitude N Longitude W  
39 18' 123 47' 30"

## CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

Contact State Parks if response is necessary here due to presence of endangered Pt. Arena Mountain Beaver in area.

## HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

## SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 1-460.1 Objective: Divert incoming oil to the north shore for collection when oil present

Exclusion/diversion booming to land oil on the sand near the parking lot.

## 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 No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
1-460.1	1000	0	0	2000	10 22lb+ danforth anchors	0	2	0	0	10	

## LOGISTICS

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

From U.S. hwy 101 at Willits, take state HWY 20 to state 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 .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. This site includes the tidal estuary where Big River enters Mendocino Bay. Portion of north shoreline, upstream of State Highway 1 bridge is within Mendocino Headlands State Park.

**LAND ACCESS:** Large vehicle can access this site.

**WATER LOGISTICS:** Small boat launch ramp on site.  
Limitations: depth, obstruction  
Launching, Loading, Docking  
and Services Available:

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

The parking lot could be used to stage enough equipment to supply the needs of other response sites in the area. The small boat launch ramp is suitable for small motorized craft only, and probably not good to launch ocean response vessels. The site does not have lodging, fuel, water, or electricity.

## COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

## ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

