

County: **Del Norte**  
USGS Quad: **Smith River**

Thomas Guide Location  
CA Road Atlas  
NOAA Chart: **18602**

Latitude N Longitude W  
41 57' N 124 12'30"W

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

#### SITE DESCRIPTION:

The Smith River mouth & the associated estuary provide good habitat for numerous species of fish and wildlife during all seasons of the year. Oil that threatens to enter the estuary from an off shore spill should be contained as close to the mouth as is feasible under the prevailing on scene conditions at the time of the incident. The site has a tidal inlet that is generally open all year. Substrate consists of medium to coarse grained sand on beach face. The back beach is pebble and cobble and can collect some driftwood in moderate amounts on south spit but only low amounts on north side. No natural oil/tar is found at this site. Response category 2. Easily accessed site. Distance (20+ miles) from pre-staged equipment.

#### SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Offshore rocks provide roosting and nesting habitat for birds and haul out locations for marine mammals. Care should be taken so that response activities do not flush wildlife from these areas. The offshore rocks have cultural significance for local tribes.

#### RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Smith River has an extensive estuary where oil should be excluded from entering when ever possible. The wetlands and associated wildlife are dynamic and highly vulnerable to damage from oil and response activities.

Shorebirds, coastal seabirds, wading birds, waterfowl including Common loon (SSC), Western grebe, Double crested cormorant(01-12)

Aleutian cackling goose (10-11;02-04).

California brown pelican (04-11)

Marbled murrelet (FT, SE)(01-12)

Raptors including Bald eagle (SE), Peregrine falcon, and Osprey: all (01-12)

Harbor seals and pups swim inside river mouth

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

spawning runs (four species combined) (08-06)

juveniles/smolts (four species combined) (02-08) juveniles may use estuary year round

Tidewater goby (FE,SSC)(01-12)

Green sturgeon (FT,SSC)

Eulachon (FT,SSC)

Pacific lamprey

Kelp beds offshore

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) 373-3710, the State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or Mr. Bryan Much, 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
T		North Coast Redwoods District	(707) 445-6547
O		Northern Communications (24hr)	(916) 358-0333
C		Smith River Rancheria	(707) 487-9255
T		Redwood National & State Parks	(707) 464-6101
E		Del Norte County Sheriff's Dept	(707) 464-4191
O	Troy Nicolini	National Weather Service Woodley Island	(707) 442-2171
T	Bob Pagliuco	NOAA/Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service	(707) 834-2215
T	Bill Pinnix	USFWS Arcata Field Office	(707) 845-6858

#### 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)).

# 1-110 -A Site Strategy - Smith River Mouth and Lagoon

County and Thomas Guide Location

CA Road Atlas Del Norte

NOAA CHART

18602

# 1-110 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

41 57' N 124 12'30"

## CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

## HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Out flowing water from the Smith River can create hazardous currents during storm and spring flood events.

## SITE STRATEGIES

### Strategy 1-110.1 Objective: Observe on-scene conditions before assigning response equipment

Recommend an USCG overflight or on-scene site visit before sending equipment to this tidally dynamic location. The River mouth has historically been many miles south of the present opening to the Pacific.

### Strategy 1-110.2 Objective: Bring oil to shore for collection on incoming tides

Anchor a boom on the back of the spit near the mouth and divert oil to the low current pocket on the eastern shore at the boat ramp.

### Strategy 1-110.3 Objective: Diversion boom to bring oil to shore and minimize spread in the estuary on incoming tides.

Set an anchor mid channel and place a "V" of boom to divert oil to low current pockets on the shores near the entrance.

### Strategy 1-110.4 Objective: Exclude oil from rocky shore on the North side of the inlet.

Line the north west shore with boom to prevent oiling of rocky shore.

### Strategy 1-110.5 Objective: Exclude oil from rocky shoreline using pompoms.

Line rocky tidal area with pompoms.

## 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
1-110.1		0	0	0					1 Helicopter		
1-110.2	1500	0	0	0	12 22 lb danforth	1	2	0		3	2
1-110.3	0	6000	0		30 22 lb danforth	1	1	0		3	2
1-110.4	0		1000		8 22 lb danforth	1	1	0	0	3	2
1-110.5	0	0	0	0	6 22 lb Danforth	1	1	0	1E+ PomPoms	3	2

## LOGISTICS

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

Go north on U.S. Hwy 101 through Crescent City to 'Mouth of Smith River' Road MP 43.17 (about .5 mile north of Ship Ashore Resort). Turn left and go to end of road. The road ends at the mouth of the Smith River. Best access for response is from Ship Ashore Resort on U.S. 101 @ Chinook Way. A small boat ramp is available behind the hotel and restaurant that overlook the river. Access also available at the Salmon Harbor Resort, Westbrook Gravel operation, and public launch on Fred Haight Dr. The Smith River mouth & the associated estuary provide good habitat for numerous species of fish and wildlife during all seasons of the year. Oil that threatens to enter the estuary from an off shore spill should be contained as close to the mouth as is feasible under the prevailing on scene conditions at the time of the incident.

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

**WATER LOGISTICS:** Local boat ramps are only suitable for shallow draft skiffs

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

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

A medium sized staging area may be available at the Ship Ashore Resort. The area has a restaurant, hotel, public phones. Water and electricity may be available for emergency use.

### **COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:**

### **ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

