

County: **Del Norte**  
 USGS Quad: **Crescent City**

Thomas Guide Location  
 CA Road Atlas  
 NOAA Chart: **18603**

Latitude N  
 41 45'  
 Longitude W  
 124 12'

Last Page Update :

#### SITE DESCRIPTION:

Crescent City Harbor District manages the harbor and marina. Dungeness crab is the primary commercial species landed in the harbor. Elk Creek flows into the harbor and is managed as the Elk Creek Wildlife Area by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Site is associated with BLM's California Coastal National Monument resources. A shallow protected harbor with dredged areas to accommodate commercial fishing vessels. Elk creek has riprap north of the mouth and a sandy beach on the south. Elk creek flows into a developed commercial and recreational harbor that is susceptible to Tsunami waves. The last Tsunami that caused damage here occurred March 12, 2011.

Response category 1.

#### SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

This is a high bird use area year round. Seawater intakes to Ocean World aquarium are within the Inner Boat Basin.

#### RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The marsh at the mouth of Elk creek forms a small estuary used by salmonids. The harbor is home to many recreational and commercial fishermen.

California brown pelican (04-11)  
 Marbled murrelet (FT,SE)(01-12)  
 Common loon (SSC)  
 Elegant tern (07-10)  
 Fork-tailed storm petrel (SSC)(02-10)  
 Rhinoceros auklet (01-12)  
 Osprey (01-12)  
 Wading birds and waterfowl (01-12).

Haul-outs for California sea lions and Harbor seals (01-12)

Coho salmon (FT, ST), Steelhead and Coastal cutthroat trout (SSC)

- spawning runs (10-06)
- smolts/juveniles (02-08)

Herring spawning (12-03), larval and juveniles (03-08)

Eelgrass

#### 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
O		Ocean World	(707) 464-4900
T		CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Area	(707) 445-6493
E		Battery Point Light House	(707) 464-3089
E		Del Norte County Sheriff's Dept	(707) 464-4191
T	Charlie Helms Harbor Master	Crescent City Harbor District	(707) 464-6174
E/T	David Ledig Manager	BLM California Coastal National Monument	(831) 630-5006
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)).

# 1-145 -A Site Strategy - Elk Creek and Crescent City Harbor

County and Thomas Guide Location

CA Road Atlas Del Norte

NOAA CHART

18603

# 1-145 -A

Latitude N

41 45'

Longitude W

124 12'

Last Page Update :

## CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Oiling of marsh habitats in Elk Creek could cause long term damage and be difficult to clean up. Avoid anchoring in eelgrass beds.

## HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

This is a commercial area. The harbor and roads and lots surrounding it may have heavy traffic (incl. Heavy equipment) at certain times of the year.

## SITE STRATEGIES

Heavy wave action may complicate conventional response.

Strategy 1-145.1 Objective: Prevent oiling of sensitive sites in the harbor following the Geographic Response Plan

Elk River mouth estuary should be boomed to prevent oiling. The estuary could probably be boomed on foot at lower tides.

Strategy 1-145.2 Objective: Prevent oiling of sensitive sites in the harbor following the Geographic Response Plan

Boom the entrance channel to the boat basin to exclude incoming oil or retain spilled oil within boat basin for recovery.

Strategy 1-145.3 Objective: Exclude oil from Elk Creek

This is an alternate strategy to 1-145.1 and may be more appropriate under heavy wave action. Boom the mouth of Elk Creek and deflect oil to collection point near trailer park. This strategy was developed during the March 2011 tsunami response.

Strategy 1-145.4 Objective: Exclude oil from Elk Creek

This is an alternate strategy to 1-145.1 and 1-145.3 and may be more appropriate under heavy wave action. Deploy sorbent boom near creek mouth to prevent oil from moving upstream on flood tide. This strategy was developed during the March 2011 tsunami response.

## 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
1-145.1	600	0	0	0	4 22lb Danforth anchors with chain	0	1	0	0	4	2
1-145.2	300	0	0	600	4 22lb Danforth anchors with chain	1	0	0	0	4	2
1-145.3	600	0	0	0	4 22lb Danforth anchors with chain	0	0	0	0	4	2
1-145.4	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	4	2

## LOGISTICS

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

Go north on US Hwy 101 into Crescent City. Turn onto Front Street. The mouth of Elk Creek and parking areas parallel Front Street. A boat launch is available on south side near Whaler's Island Hoist or Citizen's Dock. Whaler's Island is off 101, turn W. onto Anchor Drive. Citizen's Dock is off 101, turn W. onto Citizen's Dock Road. Crescent City Harbor District manages the harbor and marina. Dungeness crab is the primary commercial species landed in the harbor. Elk Creek flows into the harbor and is managed as the Elk Creek Wildlife Area by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Site is associated with BLM's California Coastal National Monument resources.

**LAND ACCESS:** Foot access to Elk Creek

**WATER LOGISTICS:** Large vessel launching facility available

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Launch in harbor

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

Crescent City Harbor has public area's suitable for staging large quantities of equipment and personnel. Boat ramps and lifts are available for launching vessels. Restaurants and lodging and fuel are available nearby. Electricity and water may be available in some cases.

## COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

## ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

