

County: **Humboldt**
 USGS Quad: **Rodgers Peak**

Thomas Guide Location
 CA Road Atlas
 NOAA Chart: **18600**

Latitude N Longitude W
 41 10' 30" 124 07'

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes Big Lagoon from the shore line to Hwy 101. The sand spit and surrounding forest is managed by State Parks as part of Humboldt Lagoons State Park. The lagoon itself is managed by CDFW as Big Lagoon Wildlife Area. The campground and boat launch at the south end is Big Lagoon County Park. The lagoon is separated from the Ocean by a two mile spit with vegetated dunes. Seasonally, the spit opens to the ocean (during high run off of winter rains), usually at the north end. The spit is fine to medium granule sand. Marsh vegetation fringes the remainder. The lagoon is open freshwater and saltwater marshes.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Wetlands

Shorebirds, seabirds, waterfowl. California brown pelican (04-11). Raptors incl. Peregrine falcon, Bald eagle (SE), and Osprey; all (01-12). Snowy Plover FWS Critical Habitat - sand dunes between lagoon and ocean. Snowy plover (FT)(01-12), nesting period (03-08) nesting directly on sand within dunes.

Tidewater goby (FE,SSC)(01-12), FWS Critical Habitat

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

- spawning (08-06) when lagoon breaches
- juveniles/smolts (01-12)

Green sturgeon (FT,SSC)

Pacific lamprey

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		CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Area	(707) 445-6493
O		Northern Communications (24hr)	(916) 358-0333
T		Humboldt County Parks	(707) 445-7651
T		North Coast Redwoods District	(707) 445-6547
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).

1-230 -A Site Strategy - Big Lagoon

County and Thomas Guide Location

CA Road Atlas Humboldt

NOAA CHART

18600

1-230 -A

Latitude N Longitude W

41 10' 30 124 07'

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

It is unlikely that oil will ever reach this lagoon when the mouth is closed unless there is extremely high tides and surf. Response at the site under these conditions should probably not be attempted from anywhere near the sand spit where sleeper waves could easily disrupt response activities. The primary concern is oil entering the lagoon from the ocean and spreading across the Lagoon, which would pose cleanup problems and exposure to birds, animals, and fish in the lagoon. The intent is to control and collect oil near the berm entry point(s). A secondary concern is disturbance of snowy plover nesting on the sand spit.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Area of beach and waterway adjacent to breach is dangerous when water is flowing.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 1-230.1 Objective: Prevent spilled oil from floating to this site.

Conventional on-scene response is not possible at this site. Protect with off-site response measures only.

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
1-230.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Protect with off-site response measures only.		

LOGISTICS

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

From Eureka, go north on U.S. hwy 101. Turn left onto Big Lagoon Park Road M.P. 108.250. Go 0.3 mile and turn right on Big Lagoon Park Rd. Follow the signs to the county park. Various access points are available (by foot from hwy 101) on the east side of lagoon. Access to the north end of lagoon where breaching occurs is possible only by traversing the beach from south end (about 2 miles) or from Dry Lagoon parking lot at the north end. This site includes Big Lagoon from the shore line to Hwy 101. The sand spit and surrounding forest is managed by State Parks as part of Humboldt Lagoons State Park. The lagoon itself is managed by CDFW as Big Lagoon Wildlife Area. The campground and boat launch at the south end is Big Lagoon County Park.

LAND ACCESS: Locked gates, with ATV access w/o a key.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking There is a small boat ramp at Big Lagoon County Park.
and Services Available:

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

The parking area next to the boat ramp could be used to stage equipment for a medium sized event in the area. There are public rest rooms and camping spots in the park, but no fuel or food concessions on site. These supplies can be found south on HWY 101 in Trinidad.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

