

County: **Humboldt**
 USGS Quad: **Cannibal Island**

Thomas Guide Location
 CA Road Atlas
 NOAA Chart: **18622, 18620**

Latitude N Longitude W
 40 38' 30" 124 18' 30"

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes the Eel River and adjacent marshes and sloughs from Fernbridge to the river mouth. Ownerships include private land, Crab Park (Humboldt County Parks) at the end of Cannibal Rd, and CDFW's Eel River Wildlife Area and Cock Robin Island. Total acreage of marshes exceed 700 acres in addition to riparian vegetation. This major estuary complex has abundant marshes, as well as exposed and sheltered tidal flats, numerous sloughs opening into the estuary. The mouth of the Eel River will migrate seasonally in response to fresh water flow and near shore current changes. The Eel River can, over a brief period of time, migrate from north to south or south to north for a distance of about 1.5 miles or more. No booming response is advisable during high winter flows.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

No booming response is feasible when river discharge is high, a condition that is typical during winter months. Additionally, winter storms can occur here almost year round, so be aware of the recent and predicted weather patterns before deploying equipment at this dynamic estuary.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Large areas of pickleweed marsh on the Eel river side of the coastal sand dunes, clearly tidally influenced. Salt marshes grade into riparian and fresh marshy margins as waters become less salty.

Shorebirds, seabirds, wading birds, waterfowl (01-12)

California brown pelican (04-11), Bald eagle (SE), Peregrine falcon, osprey, merlin; all (01-12). Snowy plover (FT)(01-12), FWS Critical Habitat - sand dunes on both north and south spits of Eel River, nesting period (03-08). Nests directly on sand within dunes.

Pacific harbor seals and California sea lions haul out near river mouth.

Anadromous salmonids:

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

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

Green sturgeon (FT,SSC)

Tidewater goby (FE,SSC), FWS Critical Habitat

Longfin smelt (ST)

Pacific lamprey

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
E		Humboldt County Sheriff	(707) 445-7251
T		CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Area	(707) 445-6493
T		Humboldt County Parks	(707) 445-7651
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
E	Bruce Slocum	Eel River Delta Excursion Cruises	(707) 786-4187

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).

1-260 -A Site Strategy - Eel River Estuary

County and Thomas Guide Location
CA Road Atlas Humboldt

NOAA CHART
18622, 18620

1-260 -A

Latitude N Longitude W
40 38' 30 124 18' 30"

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

Preventing oil from spreading into the upper end of the estuary is the primary goal of responding at this location.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Crab Park and access roads may be submerged during high water and runoff periods.

SITE STRATEGIES

The location of the river mouth may shift from year to year. It will be necessary to adjust site strategy to address conditions at time of response. An overflight or site visit to evaluate the location of the river mouth is recommended initially..

Strategy 1-260.1 Objective: Make an on site evaluation before equipment call out or deployment.

Perform a site evaluation or over flight to determine if conditions will allow any field response under prevailing conditions. Weather forecasts for floods, waves, winds, and tides must be considered before any deployment.

Strategy 1-260.2 Objective: Primary strategy: Boom slough mouths and the up river end of the estuary when conditions near the mouth precludes succesful booming.

A. Boom the mouth of North Bay Slough by booming at a diagonal from the tip of the north spit to collection at the huge stump upstream on the Crab Park shore. (700 ft 8X8+ boom, 4 22#+ anchors)

B. Boom the main channel (two layers) at an angle to strand oil on the shore near the bridge across the Eel to Cock Robin Island. (3500 ft 8X8+ boom, 8 22#+ anchors)

C. Exclude oil from Salt River and adjacent southern sloughs: Exclusion boom at a diagonal or chevron. (400 ft boom, 6 anchors). This strategy was adapted after a field deployment here 8/25/05.

Strategy 1-260.3 Objective: No booming necessary when there is high volume flood outflow.

Strategy 1-260.4 Objective: When oil is overwasing the beach berm, deploy short diversion segments to ground oil to back of berm

Deploy six 100 ft segments of boom along the back of the berm to divert overwashing oil to shore during the flood tide. Select boom locations at best available locations and angles under prevailing conditions to collect oil. (6X6+ boom)

Strategy 1-260.5 Objective: Hazing: keep sensitive species off haulout and roosting areas

Pursue hazing to discourage wildlife use of spit. Contact UC Davis hazing staff and USFWS for further actions. Passive hazing recommended.

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 and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
1-260.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1-260.2	4600	0	0	0	18 22 lb danforth anchors	1	1	0	0 ATV's are useful at this site	12	6
1-260.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
1-260.4	0	600	0	0	12 22 lb danforth anchors	0	0	0	0		
1-260.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		

LOGISTICS

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

From Eureka: south on U.S. hwy 101 to Fernbridge/Ferndale exit. Turn right on Eel River Rd and drive 1.9 miles to the town of Loleta. Turn left on Cannibal Island Road and continue 5 miles to Crab Park. Route to north spit of river mouth: take Hookton Road exit off Hwy 101. Continue on Hookton Road (which becomes Table Bluff Road) until it reaches the beach. 4WD access to the mouth of the river is possible by a road behind dunes (marked), which runs south to the mouth. This site includes the Eel River and adjacent marshes and sloughs from Fernbridge to the river mouth. Ownerships include private land, Crab Park (Humboldt County Parks) at the end of Cannibal Rd, and CDFW's Eel River Wildlife Area and Cock Robin Island. Total acreage of marshes exceed 700 acres in addition to riparian vegetation.

LAND ACCESS: Large trucks (in dry weather) OK at Crab Park and Cock Robin Island.

WATER LOGISTICS: Small boat launch off the beach. Shallow, with sand bars.
Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Small boat ramp at Pedrazzini Park. Beach launch at Crab Park.

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

Crab Park or Pedrazzini Park. No services available. Ok for local response equipment.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

