

County: **Humboldt**  
 USGS Quad: **Petrolia**

Thomas Guide Location  
 CA Road Atlas  
 NOAA Chart: **18623**

Latitude N Longitude W  
 40 17' 30" 124 21'

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

#### SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes the Mattole River estuary or seasonal lagoon and the bordering marshes along the southern margin. Site is part of the King Range National Conservation Area managed by BLM and is associated with BLM's Rocks and Islands Wilderness. This site has a complex estuary that is open and closed (by sand berm) to tidal action by seasonal hydrological events. There are about 5 acres of alder and herbacious marshes along the southwest margin of the estuary, and a campground and picnic area at the end of the access road.

#### SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

This river mouth is highly dynamic and site evaluation will be necessary prior to equipment deployment.

#### RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The Mattole River mouth changes seasonally according to prevailing hydrological events. The highly sensitive estuarine habitat should be protected from oiling when possible.

Shorebirds, seabirds, waterfowl. California brown pelican (04-11), Bald eagle (SE) and peregrine falcon; both (01-12).

Anadromous salmonids: Coho (FT,ST) and Chinook (FT) salmon, Steelhead (FT).

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

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
O		Humboldt County Sheriff	(707) 445-7251
O		BLM 24 hour dispatch	(707) 268-2000
T		Bureau of Land Management-Arcata Field Office	(707) 825-2300
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
E/T	Gary Pritchard-Peterson Manager	BLM King Range National Conservation Area	(707) 986-5400

#### 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)).

# 1-285 -A Site Strategy - Mattole River

County and Thomas Guide Location  
CA Road Atlas Humboldt

NOAA CHART  
18623

# 1-285 -A

Latitude N Longitude W  
40 17' 30 124 21'

## CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

The south side is an alder and marsh wetland which would be extremely difficult to clean up. Keep oil out of wetland and shunt to bare sand or gravel areas where ecological impacts will be minimal. Because birds use the water surface and fish the lagoon, minimize the spread of oil and confine by booming to near shorelines.

## HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

## SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 1-285.1 Objective: Primary: When mouth is open, threatening oiling with tidal inflow, exclusion-deflection booming to collection at southwest corner of Lagoon.

Deploy boom from the cliff headland on the north to the opening of the marshy channel at the south west corner. Angle the boom across the influent current to minimize entrainment of oil and maximize oil movement into a collection area at the southwest margin. Use pom-poms or oil snare to retain and immobilize oil. Evaluate for mechanical collection needs.

Strategy 1-285.2 Objective: Alternative: When mouth is open and there are winds exceeding 20 knots west, threatening oiling with tidal inflow, exclusion-deflection booming to collection along the north shoreline.

Deploy boom from the southern spit to the bar or any other vantage point on the north bank where oil can be landed. Retain oil with pom-poms until more effective measures can be installed. Vehicle access to the north bank may be difficult or impossible (ford). Cascade 1000 ft sections of swamp boom or larger (3000 ft)

Strategy 1-285.3 Objective: When outflows are heavy, little oil can enter; cautionary booming of small slough at south west corner

Boom the slough at southwest corner with 100 ft of swamp boom. Secure with stakes.

Strategy 1-285.4 Objective: When the berm is intact but surge is overwashing it, install boom on back side of berm and collect the oil.

Stake a layer of swamp boom along the back side of any berm washover, positioning it so that oil can be collected at the southerly end. Use oilsnare to retain and immobilize oil.

Strategy 1-285.5 Objective: Alternative when berm is intact and oil is overwashing, berm and collect oil on back slope of berm using runnel.

Using excavating equipment, build-up the berm using sediments on downslope and high areas. Runnel will collect any oil which overflows. Plastic may be necessary to line front face to minimize further overwash erosion

## 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
1-285.1	0	1000	100	0	0 4 15#+ anchors	0	0	0	0		
1-285.2	0	3000	100	0	0 15#+ danforths.	0	0	0	0		
1-285.3	0	100	0	0	0 stakes.	0	0	0	0		
1-285.4	0	1000	100	0	0 stakes.	0	0	0	0		
1-285.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 skip loader and 200 ft plastic		

## LOGISTICS

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

From Eureka, go south on U.S. hwy 101. Exit U.S. hwy 101 at Fernbridge/Ferndale exit. At Fernbridge, turn right into bridge (state route 211). Follow state route 211 for 4.8 miles through Ferndale. Turn left onto Mattole Road (2 lane road may be reduced to 1 lane in spots due to earthquake damage). Follow Mattole Road through Petrolia (30.4 miles). Turn right onto Lighthouse Road. This road parallels river to the mouth. This site includes the Mattole River estuary or seasonal lagoon and the bordering marshes along the southern margin. Site is part of the King Range National Conservation Area managed by BLM and is associated with BLM's Rocks and Islands Wilderness.

**LAND ACCESS:** Lock gate access, with easy access for all vehicles

**WATER LOGISTICS:** shallows  
Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking across beach launch at campground. Launch at ford to bar on north upstream.  
and Services Available:

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

This area is suitable for local equipment staging. A campground with toilets at southwest corner, with non-potable(?) water available. No other services are nearby. The northern trail access for the 26 mile long Lost Coast Trail begins here.

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:** Remote, limited communications

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:** Lost Coast area cell phones may not work.

