

County: **Humboldt**

USGS Quad:

Thomas Guide Location

CA Road Atlas

NOAA Chart:

Latitude N

Longitude W

40 45' 30"N 124 13' 45"W

Last Page Update :

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This response site extends from the cove directly north of the Samoa public launch ramp and campground south about one quarter mile including beaches inside of the USCG Station. The public campground and launching ramp facility should be utilized as the staging area of operations for response crews working at this site. The campground and boat launch are managed by Humboldt County Parks. BLM manages the Samoa Dunes Recreation Area (aka North Spit). The Samoa spit beaches near the mouth of the bay contain a series of coves or pocket beaches where floating debris will naturally be deposited by eddies formed by the outgoing tidal currents. Accumulation of floating debris can be enhanced by the addition of short lengths of boom that extend from shore out into the current.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

High bird use area year round.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The resources that are at risk that can be protected using this strategy are the offshore marine birds, waterfowl, and marine mammals that can be impacted if floating oil leaves the bay on an out going tide. Resources inside of the bay include cultured oysters, waterfowl, and encrusting intertidal organisms.

Brant and other migratory waterfowl, waterbirds and shorebirds occur in the fall, winter, and spring (some year round). In winter it is not unusual for over 100,000 birds to use the Bay as a feeding or resting site. Offshore birds that are threatened when there is oil in the bay include marbled murrelets (FT,SE), tufted puffins (SSC), brown pelicans, ducks, gulls, etc.

Marine mammals found in the bay include on occasion, whales, but more commonly harbor seals and CA sea lions.

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)

Groundfish (EFH)

Humboldt Bay oyster (Pacific, Kumamoto) and clam aquaculture. The north bay is home to a large and commercially successful oyster seed production and smaller grow out operation. Care should be taken to minimize impacts to these resources.

Dungeness crab

Extensive eel grass beds are exposed on lower tides

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		BLM 24 hour dispatch	(707) 268-2000
T		Humboldt County Parks	(707) 445-7651
T		Bureau of Land Management-Arcata Field Office	(707) 825-2300
C		Table Bluff Reservation Wiyot Tribe	(707) 733-5055
T		U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Eureka	(707) 443-0855
T	Suzie Howser Dock Master	Humboldt Bay Harbor District	(707) 443-0801
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).

1-305 -A Site Strategy - Humboldt Bay Inlet and Inner Samoa Peninsula

County and Thomas Guide Location

NOAA CHART

1-305 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

CA Road Atlas Humboldt

40 45' 30 124 13' 45"

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

Oil that is not captured here on out going tides will threaten offshore marine birds and many miles of shoreline. Avoid anchor impacts to eelgrass beds.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Swift currents in the channels and south towards the entrance of Humboldt bay can create hazards to navigation even when sea conditions are otherwise calm. Submerged hazard just north of Samoa Campground launch not visible at high tide.

SITE STRATEGIES

The booming strategy will be most effective on ebb tide.

Strategy 1-305.1 Objective: Notify PG&E when oil threatens King Salmon

Call (707) 444-0700 or 444-0712 (24hours)

Strategy 1-305.2 Objective: Collect oil at natural collection sites to minimize the spread of oil around the bay and to prevent oil from exiting the bay

Install deflection boom at USCG Cove, USCG boat station, Samoa boat launching ramp, and other sites where natural collection can be enhanced with strategic boom deployments.

Note: Skimming will need to begin as soon as that equipment can be brought to these collection points, but will not be critical until oil begins to collect in skimmable amounts at the various collection points. The installation of the deflection-to-collection booms should be the primary focus of the initial response efforts that are prescribed in this strategy.

Strategy 1-305.3 Objective: On water skimming of free floating oil

Use self propelled skimmers to begin on-water oil recovery in areas where oil is still concentrated.

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
1-305.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
1-305.2	2000	0	0	0	10 22 lb+ Danforth	2	0	1 SSS/SP		8	
1-305.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 SPS		3	

LOGISTICS

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

Humboldt Bay is adjacent to Highway 101, near the cities of Arcata and Eureka. Highway 255 passes over it on the north end. This site is accessible by land by driving toward Samoa on Highway 255 and taking New Navy Base Road south to the County RV Camp site and boat launch ramp area. This response site extends from the cove directly north of the Samoa public launch ramp and campground south about one quarter mile including beaches inside of the USCG Station. The public campground and launching ramp facility should be utilized as the staging area of operations for response crews working at this site. The campground and boat launch are managed by Humboldt County Parks. BLM manages the Samoa Dunes Recreation Area (aka North Spit).

LAND ACCESS: Large trucks can access much of this area

WATER LOGISTICS: The water near shore is shallow, but otherwise navigable.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Trailered boats can be launched directly at this site at the county boat ramp.

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

Historic large spill have utilized the Red Lion Inn for the Command Post, and local OSRO's have staging areas nearby

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

