

County: **Humboldt**

USGS Quad:

Thomas Guide Location

CA Road Atlas

NOAA Chart:

Latitude N

40 50' N

Longitude W

124 07' 30"W

Last Page Update :

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The response site is largely in the Samoa Channel south of the HWY 255 bridge. The boom deployment is designed to stop the spread of oil into the shallow waters of Arcata Bay on the North side of HWY 255 on the flood tide. The strong tidal currents in the bay can bring oil from the mouth of the bay to the sensitive sites in North Bay in one or two tidal cycles.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Extensive marsh complexes, wetlands, estuaries, bird habitats, aquaculture. High bird use area year round.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Humboldt Bay Hatchery, Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*). 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.

Waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, pelicans, cormorants, wading birds, and raptors are all at least occasionally present, with seasonal variations in migratory species but with high numbers present in the area on any average day.

Brant

Harbor seals are the only marine mammals typically found at this site.

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)

Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) aquaculture

Dungeness crab

eelgrass beds

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
C		Table Bluff Reservation Wiyot Tribe	(707) 733-5055
O	Suzie Howser Dock Master	Humboldt Bay Harbor District	(707) 443-0801
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).

1-310 -A Site Strategy - North Humboldt Bay

County and Thomas Guide Location

CA Road Atlas Humboldt

NOAA CHART

1-310 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

40 50' N 124 07' 30"

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

This strategy should be implemented ASAP; oil will rapidly move towards Arcata Bay on a flood tide from most points in Humboldt Bay north of the jetty. Oiling of north bay could be difficult to clean up and cause long term damage to important habitats. Avoid anchor impacts to eelgrass beds.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Access to this site is best on the water, as the islands have restricted access and are off limits to response traffic. Most of the remaining shoreline consists of wide and often shallow mud flats that are soft, deep, and difficult to walk upon and unstable to work on.

SITE STRATEGIES

Swift currents in Samoa Channel will complicate conventional response. Boom with two tension cables is advised. Vessel traffic may complicate response. Redwood Dock is deteriorating and may pose safety hazards.

Strategy 1-310.1 Objective: On water recovery

Use self propelled skimmers to begin oil recovery to minimize the area of injury in the bay.

Strategy 1-310.2 Objective: Prevent oil from entering Arcata Bay

Direct oil with deflection boom to a swift water skimmer near the middle of the channel just north of the HWY 255 Bridge. Two lengths of boom should extend from the skimmer to the south ends of the two main channel bridge support structures. From those points, the boom should extend south terminating at the permanent channel marking structures on the east and west sides of the Samoa Channel.

Additional boom that extends from the two channel marking structures and up above the high tide line should be installed as soon as possible.

Strategy 1-310.3 Objective: Deflection to collection/ THAT MAY BE DEPLOYED SOMETIME AFTER THE INITIAL RESPONSE STAGE HAS PASSED.

Use 400' sections of boom (or less) to deflect oil from the Samoa Channel to a floating skimmer at the Louisiana Pacific Lumber dock.

Strategy 1-310.4 Objective: Add a second layer of boom for back up behind the first layer used in strategy #2

By adding a second layer of boom behind the "V" and skimmer listed in Strategy #2, any oil that was missed by the first layer of boom will have a second chance of being stopped so that it will not spread further into Arcata Bay.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	Boat type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or comment	staff deploy	Staff tend
1-310.1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	1 SPS	1		3	
1-310.2		3500	0	0	5	22 lb+Danforth anchors	2	0	1 SPS	0		8	
1-310.3	2000		0	0	10	22+lbs Danforth anchors	1	0	1 SFS	0		4	
1-310.4	0	2500	0	0	5	22+lbs Danforth anchors	0	0	0	0		4	

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. The response area for this site include the Samoa Channel between the town of Samoa and Indian Island, under the Highway 255 bridge. The response site is largely in the Samoa Channel south of the HWY 255 bridge. The boom deployment is designed to stop the spread of oil into the shallow waters of Arcata Bay on the North side of HWY 255 on the flood tide.

LAND ACCESS:

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

The channels are deep, while the shoreline is mudflats.

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available:

There are numerous public boat ramps around the bay, with the nearest being directly under the east end of the HWY 255 Bridge in Eureka.

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

Public docks and boat launching facilities are available around the bay, and the OSRO's have on the water response resources pre-staged in the area.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: Bring a life vest and rain jacket, year round. Do not access Indian Island without permission.

