

1-345-A Site Summary - Elk River & Marsh**1-345-A****County :** Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment :** HM - G - S12 HM - G - S13**NOAA Chart :** 18622**Map Book :** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees** 40.7714 -124.1973**Site Description:**

This site extends from the mouth of the Elk River on Humboldt Bay and includes the tidal marsh complex upstream. This site is within the City of Eureka and is also known as the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary managed by the city. High public use area as Eureka's Hikshari trail lies adjacent to the estuary. Tidal influence extends well upstream of the Highway 101 bridge. The inlet consists of sheltered tidal flats with eelgrass beds. Elk River spit is fine to medium grain sand. The Elk river estuary has extensive wetlands and saltmarsh that would be difficult to clean-up if oiled. High bird use area year round. Brant use the area for foraging Nov-Apr. Anadromous salmonids spawn upstream Sept-April. Pacific herring spawn on eelgrass beds Nov-March.

Resources at Risk:**ESI and Habitat:** 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

9A Sheltered tidal flats

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence
Birds	wading birds		Year-round
Birds	shorebirds		Year-round
Birds	waterfowl		Year-round
Birds	black brant		Nov-Apr
Fish	coho salmon - north of Punta Gorda	FT, ST	Year-round
Fish	chinook salmon - California coastal	FT	Year-round
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round
Fish	coastal cutthroat trout		Year-round
Fish	longfin smelt		Year-round
Fish	tidewater goby	FE	Year-round
Fish	Pacific lamprey		Year-round
Fish	Pacific herring		Year-round
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round
Mammals	North American river otter		Year-round
Plants	beach layia	FE, SE	Year-round
Plants	eelgrass		Year-round
Plants	Humboldt Bay wallflower	FE, SE	Year-round

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

List of Key Contacts:

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/	Northwest Historical Resources Information Center	(707) 588-8455
C	/	Table Bluff Reservation Wiyot Tribe	(707) 733-5055
E	/	City of Eureka	(707) 441-4203
E	/	Eureka Police Department	(707) 441-4044
O	/Terminal Manager	Chevron Marine Terminal	(707) 444-7850
O	/	Humboldt Bay Harbor District	(707) 443-0801
T	/	CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Eureka Field Office	(707) 445-6493

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

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).

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Oiling of sloughs and marsh complex could cause long term damage to important habitats. Avoid anchoring in eelgrass beds.

Hazard and Restrictions:

There is extensive shoaling in this area, and a significant number of potentially submerged pilings from an old trestle in the mouth of the river. Homeless camps in vicinity.

Site Strategies:

Strategy: 1-345.1 Objective: Shut key-locked tide gates on Pound Road to prevent tidal exchange.

Strategy: Keys are available at either the Chevron Terminal in Eureka or from the City of Eureka Public Works Office. This strategy is only applicable if oil has already entered the river and is upstream of the mouth and/or if primary booming strategies cannot be safely deployed.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Key or Bolt Cutters				1		Strategy Updated: 5/30/2018
Staff				2		Last Test:

Strategy: 1-345.2 Objective: Boom the mouth of Elk River to exclude oil.

Strategy: Exclusion boom the river mouth and collect oil if possible.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	1400 feet				Strategy Updated: 5/30/2018
Boom	Sorbent	300 feet				Last Test: 3/18/2014
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		5		
Boat	Skiff			1		
Staff				4		

Strategy: 1-345.3 Objective: Collect oil when enough is present to skim.

Strategy: Use a skimmer to collect oil from off the water into collection.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Skimmer	SSS/SPS			1		Strategy Updated: 5/30/2018
Staff				2		Last Test:

Strategy: 1-345.4 Objective: Boom the mouth of Elk River to exclude oil.

Strategy: Connect harbor boom from south end of Chevron Pier to north end of Elk River sand spit. Connect swamp boom from east shore of bay to south end of Chevron Pier to complete exclusion of estuary. This would be an alternative to strategy #2 at this site and is intended to replace that strategy as the primary deployment for this site. The original strategy will remain as an alternative that could be used when or if this strategy is not feasible, or as a second layer of protection.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor			2000	feet	Strategy Updated: 5/30/2018
Boom	Swamp			800	feet	Last Test: 3/23/2016
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		9		
Boat	Boom boat			1		
Boat	Skiff			1		
Staff				5		

Logistics:

Directions: There is access to the river mouth from the foot of Truesdale Street, just south of the Bayshore Mall. There is secondary access just upstream at the foot of Hilfiker Lane. From southbound U.S. Hwy 101 (South Broadway Street) in Eureka, turn right at the "Coastal Access" sign at Hilfiker Lane (M.P. 75.740) and continue to the end of the street.

Land Access: Accessible to all vehicle types including heavy equipment. Contact City of Eureka to facilitate access from Coastal Trail.

On-Water Limitations: The water depth is variable, probably submerged pilings. Access is possible from Humboldt Bay with shallow draft vessels recommended for this response location.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: There are small parking lots near the foots of Truesdale and Hilfiker streets where local response equipment and supplies could be staged for a response at this site.

Communications Problems:

Additional Operational Comments: Shallow sloughs, extensive mudflats. Depth limitations may complicate vessel access. Easier to deploy boom at higher tides (3'+). Boom can be launched from shore from Hikshari Trail vicinity; contact City of Eureka for access.



Imagery: NAIP 2012 (Summer) 4-Band