

County: **Mendocino**  
 USGS Quad: **Hales Grove**

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

Latitude N Longitude W  
 39 49' 30" 123 51'

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

#### SITE DESCRIPTION:

Tidal inlet and estuary with in the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. Trustees recommend no response within the state park. Beach consists of coarse grained sand and pebbles. Creek mouth will frequently close during seasons of low rainfall. The creek terminates on a high energy sandy beach with rocky cliff beaches to the north and south of this area.

#### SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

#### RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Oiling of estuary is primary concern (01-12).

Seabirds and shorebirds common throughout area. Raptors commonly seen throughout area.

Pacific harbor seal

Anadromous salmonids:

Coho salmon (FE/SE), steelhead trout (FT), Chinook salmon (FT) - all life stages, estuary use year round

Tidewater goby (FE, SSC)(01-12) in estuary

Night smelt and surf smelt spawn on the beach near entrance to Usal Creek south to Shoreline Rock (04-08)

Surfperch spawn in area.

#### 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          |
|------|---------------|--|----------------|
| T    |               | Mendocino District                       | (707) 937-5804 |
| O    |               | Northern Communications (24hr)           | (916) 358-0333 |
| O    |               | Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept.         | (707) 463-4086 |
| O    |               | Sinkyone Intertribal Wilderness Council  | (707) 468-9500 |
| T    |               | North Coast Redwoods District            | (707) 445-6547 |
| T    |               | CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Fort Bragg | (707) 964-9078 |
| O    | Troy Nicolini | National Weather Service Woodley Island  | (707) 442-2171 |
| T    | Joe Pecharich | NOAA/Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service      | (707) 583-3189 |
| 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](http://www.californiacoastline.org)).

# 1-408 -A Site Strategy - Usal Creek

County and Thomas Guide Location  
CA Road Atlas Mendocino

NOAA CHART  
18620

# 1-408 -A

Latitude N Longitude W  
39 49' 30 123 51'

Last Page Update :

## CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Oiling of estuary is the primary concern throughout the year.

The rugged coastline will prevent on shore response over most of this area. Off site measures including dispersants should be considered when a spill threatens to impact this area. Overflights should be careful to maintain flight path and altitude clearance distances that are large enough to prevent the flushing of birds and marine mammals from their nests, roosts, and haul outs sanctuaries on the offshore rocks in this area.

## HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Extreme currents, high energy shoreline

## SITE STRATEGIES

This site is best protected by preventing the oil from arriving here, when possible. Off site response options including dispersants should be considered.

Strategy 1-408.1 Objective: Assess on-site conditions before responding to this remote location.

Perform and overflight, or, send in a Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Team (SCAT team), to assess the Usal road access, the prevailing site conditions, and if equipment deployment or precleaning activities would be effective.

## Table of Response Resources

| strategy number | harbor boom | swamp boom | Other boom type | sorb boom | Anchoring no tvpe and dear | Boom boat | Skiffs punts | Skimmers No Type | Special Equipment or comment No and kinds | staff deploy | Staff tend |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|---|--------------|------------|
| 1-408.1         | 0           | 0          | 0               | 0         | 0                          | 0         | 0            | 0                | 1 Helicopter                              | 2            |            |

## LOGISTICS

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

From U.S.HWY 101 at Leggett, turn on State Route 1(To Fort Bragg). Go south on State Route 1 to M.P. 90.91. Take the Usal Road (County Road #431) , a poorly marked turn. This is a 4WD only road much of the year. Winding & unpaved for 6 miles. Cross the one lane bridge inside of the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. Take the first Jeep trail on left after crossing the bridge to access the creek mouth. Tidal inlet and estuary with in the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. Trustees recommend no response within the state park.

**LAND ACCESS:** Medium truck & 4WD access on dirt roads.

**WATER LOGISTICS:** No launch facilities are available at this site.

Limitations: depth, obstruction  
Launching, Loading, Docking  
and Services Available:

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

This site is suitable for staging local response equipment only. Consider helicopter lifts for response equipment. Rough camping & pit toilets are the only facilities in this remote location.

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:** Remote, limited communications

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

