

County: **Mendocino**
USGS Quad: **Mendocino**

Thomas Guide Location
CA Road Atlas
NOAA Chart: **18626**

Latitude N Longitude W
39 20' 30" 123 49' 30"

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes the coastline between Pt Cabrillo and Russian Gulch State Park. The lighthouse property at Pt Cabrillo is owned by State Parks. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Site is within with the following State Marine Protected Areas: Pt. Cabrillo SMR, Russian Gulch SMCA. CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Marine Reserves. Fully exposed bedrock outcroppings and wave-cut platforms. Surge channels and pocket coves with sheer bedrock walls. Some channels and pocket coves have gravel beaches at their inland end. Algal debris abundant in some protected channels and coves. No facilities. Access to beach limited by steep rock walls. Jack Peters Creek excises a deep gulch and flows across a medium grained sand beach. No lagoon or wetlands present. Nearshore and offshore rocks throughout coastline.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Breeding seabirds will use these rocks for nesting in the spring. Offshore rocks provide roosting and nesting habitat for birds and haul out locations for marine mammals. Care should be taken so that response activities do not flush wildlife from these areas. The offshore rocks have cultural significance for local tribes.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Tidepool habitats along this shore are highly vulnerable to oiling. The offshore rocks are sensitive to human intrusion year round, especially during nesting season (03-09) when the adults are on eggs and until the young have fledged from the nest.

Seabirds: Black oystercatchers, Pelagic cormorants, Pigeon guillemots (04-08).
Osprey and nearby nests

Lotis blue butterfly (FE)(01-12) in sphagnum bogs within stands of pine near the point
Harbor seal haul-outs and pupping areas

Coho salmon (FE,SE), Steelhead (FT) - spawning run (10-06), juveniles/smolt (02-08)
Groundfish (EFH)

Red abalone, mussels, urchins, goose-neck barnacles

Postelsia, Nereocystis, Egregia

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		Northern Communications (24hr)	(916) 358-0333
T	Sector Superintendent	California State Parks Mendocino District	(707) 937-5804
O		Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept.	(707) 463-4086
T	David Ledig Manager	BLM California Coastal National Monument	(831) 630-5006
O	Troy Nicolini	National Weather Service Woodley Island	(707) 442-2171
E	Steve Nilson President	Pt. Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association	(707) 937-6123
T	Becky Ota Marine Conservation Mgr	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
T	Joe Pecharich	NOAA/Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service	(707) 583-3189
T	Bill Pinnix	USFWS Arcata Field Office	(707) 845-6858
T	Steve Wertz Senior Env. Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

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).

1-456 -A Site Strategy - Pt Cabrillo to Russian Gulch

County and Thomas Guide Location
CA Road Atlas Mendocino

NOAA CHART
18626

1-456 -A

Latitude N Longitude W
39 20' 30 123 49' 30"

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

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:

steep pocket beaches, rock walls, no shoreline access over much of area

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 1-456.1 Objective: Minimize oiling of the creek tidal area

Construct a double layered filter fence to exclude oil from the upper tidal area. Total length of fence would be about 450 feet.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no tvpe and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
1-456.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	450 pompoms, stakes, line	5	

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 Willits, take state Hwy 1 at Fort Bragg. Go south on state hwy 1 to M.P. 54.66 (N. end of Pt. Cabrillo Drive), turn west. Continue 1.2 miles, passing Caspar Creek Beach, to Lighthouse Road. Turn west on Lighthouse Road to unlocked gate. There is no beach access at lighthouse (cliffs and steep rock walls).

For access to Russian Gulch: Exit west from hwy 1 at south exit to Pt Cabrillo Drive M.P. 52.97. Immediately turn left into Russian Gulch State Park entrance. Continue on main road down hill, behind Hwy 1 bridge. Turn right at bottom of hill to Beach parking lot. Recreation Hall is located at road junction. This site includes the coastline between Pt Cabrillo and Russian Gulch State Park. The lighthouse property at Pt Cabrillo is owned by State Parks. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Site is within with the following State Marine Protected Areas: Pt. Cabrillo SMR, Russian Gulch SMCA.

LAND ACCESS: Access restricted to medium sized utility trucks.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Small punt hand launch possible at Russian Gulch Beach.
and Services Available: Closest large launch is Noyo Harbor

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

The recreation hall in the Russian Gulch State Park could be used as an Incident Command Post if outside comms were brought in.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

