

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

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

Latitude N
 39 18'
 Longitude W
 123 48' 30"

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes the mouth of Little River and nearby shoreline. This site is within Van Damme State Park. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area: Van Damme SMCA. Little River crosses a medium to coarse grained sandy beach (Van Damme Beach) to reach a small crescent shaped bay. Gradient is steep. No wetlands or marsh areas likely to be impacted. Offshore rocks.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

The rocks are sensitive to human intrusion year round. Response efforts that cause any disturbance to marine mammals or nesting seabirds should be avoided whenever possible.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Kelp beds offshore of beach
 Algal communities on offshore rocks

Shorebirds forage along Van Damme State Park beach. Seabird rookeries (03-09): Pelagic cormorant, Pigeon guillemot, Western gull, Tufted puffin (SSC). Roosts (01-12). Osprey (01-12)
 Black oystercatchers nest on offshore rocks and cliffs

Pacific harbor seal haul-outs

Anadromous salmonids: Coho salmon (FE,SE) and Steelhead (FT):

- spawning runs (09-06)
- juveniles/smolts (02-08)

Groundfish (EFH)

Red abalone

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		CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Fort Bragg	(707) 964-9078
T	David Ledig Manager	BLM California Coastal National Monument	(831) 630-5006
O	Troy Nicolini	National Weather Service Woodley Island	(707) 442-2171
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).

1-464 -A Site Strategy - Van Damme State Park and Little River

County and Thomas Guide Location
CA Road Atlas Mendocino

NOAA CHART
18626

1-464 -A

Latitude N Longitude W
39 18' 123 48' 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:

Extreme currents, offshore rocks, high energy shoreline, short steep beaches in some areas.

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 1-464.1 Objective: Minimize impacts to shoreline in impractical response locations.

No strategy will be successful under prevailing conditions.

Offshore dispersants and/or off site skimming should be considered.

Strategy 1-464.2 Objective: Low freshwater flow exclusion strategy.

Divert or exclude oil from sensitive habitat. Hard boom lined with sorbents or pompoms could be used.

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
1-464.1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0		Off site dispersion may be the only option.		
1-464.2	100	0	100	OS	4	22lb+ danforth anchors	0	0	0			3	

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 20 to state HWY 1 at Fort Bragg. Go south on HWY 1 to M.P. 48.03, about 3 miles south of the town of Mendocino. Van Damme State Park lies alongside state HWY 1. Little River crosses the beach at this point. This site includes the mouth of Little River and nearby shoreline. This site is within Van Damme State Park. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area: Van Damme SMCA.

LAND ACCESS:

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Hand launch possible at Van Damme Beach. Abalone divers frequently launch zodiac-type boats here.

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

The parking lot at Little River is adequate for staging local response equipment. The beach has restrooms, but lacks other utilities. Fuel, lodging, supplies are available north on HWY 1 in Fort Bragg, Mendocino, and Little River.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: The cove at Van Damme beach provides some protection for small watercraft.

