

2-240-A Site Summary - Farallon Islands**2-240-A****County:** San Francisco **ACP Division/Segment:****NOAA Chart:** Gulf of the Farallones, **Map Book:**
18645**Decimal Degrees:** 37.698613 -123.002745**Site Description:**

The Farallon Islands are comprised of rocky islands 28 miles west of San Francisco including North, Middle, and Southeast Farallon Islands. The islands and surrounding waters are located within the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and are part of both State and Federal Wildlife Refuges. North Farallon and Southeast Farallon Isles are both Protected State Marine Reserves and have special closures. Farallon islands, exposed to heavy surf from all directions. The largest island, Southeast Farallon Island, has rocky marine terraces and cliffs around much of the island. Middle and the North Farallon Island group are small rock island pinnacles (< 0.25 mile diameter).

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 1A Exposed Rocky Shore

2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	seabirds		Year-round	Mar-Sep
Birds	California black rail	FP, ST	Year-round	Mar-Aug
Mammals	Northern elephant seal	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	Guadalupe fur seal	FT, ST	Year-round	
Mammals	California sea lion	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	Steller sea lion	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	Northern fur seal	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	Cetaceans		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	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/Coordinator	Northwest Information Center	(707) 588-8455
O	/Agency Representative, 24-hr	California Coastal Commission	(415) 693-8375
O	/Duty Officer (24hr)	San Francisco Dept. of Emergency Management	(415) 260-2591
T	/Agency Representative, 24-hr	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 678-4943
T	/Agency Representative, 24-hr	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 479-5311
T	/California Stranding Coordinator	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3230
T	/Dispatch, 24-hr	US National Park Service, Golden Gate NRA	(415) 561-5505
T	/Supervisory Wildlife Biologist	USFWS, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge	(510) 557-1042
T	/Spill Response Coordinator	USFWS, SF Bay-Delta Office	(916) 799-0588

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

Additional Site Summary Comments:

The Farallon Islands are a nesting and breeding habitat for a variety of seals and sea lions as well as thousands of seabirds. This sanctuary has the largest concentration of breeding seabirds in the contiguous United States. Many species of whale and dolphin range through this area.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Principal concerns are oil contamination and response activity impacts to seabirds, marine mammals, and other vulnerable intertidal plants and wildlife which are present throughout the year. The primary objective is to minimize exposure of oil to the natural resources present at the site. Other concerns are the impacts resulting from response activities. Avoid low flying aircraft/helicopters (<1000 ft) over the seabird colonies and marine mammal haulout areas. Avoid noisy boat traffic near the site.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Heavy surf and swell, washrocks, great white sharks.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: 0**

Strategy: 2-240.1 Objective: Prevent oil from stranding on rocky shoreline and contaminating seabird and marine mammal use areas.

Strategy: This site is difficult if not impossible to protect as is most of the outer coast. Mechanical shoreline protection techniques are not likely to be effective because of high wave energy and rocky conditions at this site. Consider ARTs.

- a) Recommended response strategy is on-water containment and recovery.
- b) Recommend alternative response technologies (e.g. dispersants and in-situ burning) to reduce the volume of oil reaching the site.

Table of Response Resources

Last Page Update**Logistics:**

Directions: No road access. Accessible only by vessel.

Land Access: No land access, contact NPS Personnel for vessel access.

On-Water Limitations: Either transport by Coast Guard Cutter to Farallon Islands or charter vessels for access. Coast Guard Station Golden Gate is the nearest SAR Station.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: No facilities available

Communications Problems: Unknown cell reception.

