

**2-262-A Site Summary - Pillar Point Marsh & Denniston Creek****2-262-A****County:** San Mateo **ACP Division/Segment:** SM - M - S001 SM - M - S005**NOAA Chart:** 18645,18680 Gulf of Farallons, Sur-SF **Map Book:** SF Bay and Delta **Decimal Degrees:** 37.501764 -122.495361**Site Description:**

Pillar Point Marsh is a 20 acre salt-marsh with 50 foot wide inlet to the harbor at the east end of its 700' beach front. The salt-marsh is located at the west corner of the outer harbor. Denniston Creek's 30ft creek mouth enters the harbor just west of the marina. The area is within the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Pillar Point Marsh is a salt-marsh wetland on the south side of West Point Avenue with a freshwater marsh on the north side. Dune grasses and sand hummocks front the harbor for about 700' with a wide, low sloping, fine-grained beach. There is a recess and 50-100' opening through the dune grass barrier at the east end of the beach which has flow only during rainy periods or during very high tides. The salt-marsh portion has pickleweed and other salt-marsh species and standing lagoon year around. The freshwater portion is dense with cattails and willows. The salt-marsh is part of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and is managed/owned by San Mateo Co Parks District.

Denniston Creek is a small urbanized stream running through the town of Princeton into Pillar Point Harbor. The riparian corridor quality tends to improve upstream. The stream gradient from the bridge to the harbor is quite positive, and there is usually a positive outward flow; both making oil threat minimal from harbor. Never the less, the presence of steelhead and San Francisco garter snake have necessitated that this site remain a focus of concern for harbor and upstream spills and collateral response impacts.

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

9B Vegetated low banks

8B Sheltered solid man-made structures

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Presence</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>
Amphibians	California red-legged frog	FT, SSC	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Birds	common yellowthroat	FP, SSC	Year-round	Jun-Aug
Birds	seabirds		Year-round	
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Plants	Ventura marsh milk-vetch	FE, SE	Year-round	Jul-Oct
Reptiles	San Francisco garter snake	FE, SE	Year-round	Apr-Sep

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
E	/Dispatch	California Department of Parks and Recreation	(916) 358-1300
E	/Harbor Master	Pillar Point Harbor	(650) 730-7435
E	/Dispatch, 24-hr	San Mateo Co. Dept. of Emergency Management	(650) 363-4963
O	/Agency Representative, 24-hr	California Coastal Commission	(415) 693-8375
O	/Office	Point Blue Conservation Science	(707) 781-2555
O	/Dispatch, 24-hr	San Mateo Co. Dept. of Emergency Management	(650) 363-4963
O	/Dispatch, 24-hr	The Marine Mammal Center	(415) 289-7350
T	/Office	Baylands Nature Preserve	(650) 329-2506
T	/Dispatch, 24-hr	California State Parks	(916) 358-0333
T	/Agency Representative, 24-hr	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 479-5311
T	/Office	James Fitzgerald Marine Reserve	(650) 728-3584
T	/	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species	(916) 414-6700

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

**Additional Site Summary Comments:**

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

The primary concern is oil carried into Pillar Pt Marsh and Denson Creek on high water or aggressive surf occasions. Keeping oil out of the breakwater would reduce threat to sensitive sites and marina, aquaculture, and other creatures as well. There is a strong tidal current through the breakwater entry, but the breakwater is porous and can admit. Damage and disturbance to plants, wildlife, and aquatic life during response is always a concern.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

This is an urban environment with traffic concerns.

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 2-262.1 Objective:** Exclude oil from marsh by sediment dike across marsh mouth.

**Strategy:** Keep oil from being carried into the marsh on high tide by erecting a 100ft long low sand berm. This has been successfully accomplished in the past by scraping local sand with a bulldozer. A culvert may be necessary to permit outflow from marsh. A secondary smaller berm farther back from the beach could be erected using hand labor. (Contact Harbor Master for help) This work must be accomplished before high tide when construction activity will not be possible.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Heavy Equip	Bobcat w/ tracks			1		
culvert				3		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			3		

**Strategy: 2-262.2 Objective:** Keep oil out of Denniston Creek

**Strategy:** Denniston Creek - 50 ft of swamp boom across creek mouth. Back with 50ft sorbent and a second layer of curtain boom as necessary.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	6x6 inch		50	feet	
Boom	Sorbent			50	feet	
Anchor	Stakes			4		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			2		

**Strategy: 2-262.3 Objective:** Divert oil away from marsh opening.

**Strategy:** Generally there is a light clockwise current and very light wave action in the harbor. Use this current pattern to deflect oil away from marsh mouth by deploying Harbor boom from the high beach (grass line) 25' west of the mouth, at a diagonal to a point about 100' out on the pier.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	9x9 inch		500	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	44 lb		3		
Vessel	Boom Boat			1		
Vessel	Skiff			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			5		

**Strategy: 2-262.4 Objective:** Exclusion/collection to Keep oil from entering harbor though breakwater entry - booming without closing mouth to harbor traffic.

**Strategy:** Overlapped cascaded boom at breakwater entry to divert oil to catchment without blocking vessel passage. Deploy a boom at an angle two-thirds of the distance across the channel from just inside of breakwater jetty toward the easterly breakwater. Deploy a second boom halfway across the channel from the easterly breakwater, lapping the other boom but leaving enough room to allow vessels to drive around the booms. Create a collection pocket by extending the boom end and adding a flanking length. Station a skimming vessel to collect oil.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	9x9 inch		500	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	50 lb		3		
Vessel	Skiff			1		
skimmer	self propelled			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			5		

**Strategy: 2-262.5 Objective:** Protection booming of inside of breakwater if heavy oil is likely to pass though the breakwater - line inside breakwater with boom. This will require considerable resources.

**Strategy:** Deploy swamp boom along the inside of the breakwater. Make shore collection sites at north and east beachfall lined with sorbents for land collection.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	6x6 inch		12300	feet	
Boom	Sorbent			200	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	22 lb		25		
Vessel	Skiff			2		
Vessel	skimmer			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			8		

### Logistics:

**Directions:** Hwy 1 north from Hwy. 92 past Half Moon Bay to Capistrano Rd. Turn on Prospect Way. You will cross a bridge over Denniston Creek just after turning left on Broadway. Continue right on Princeton and right on West Point Ave around the marsh to the parking lot. There is a locked gate (contact harbor master) in the parking lot which permits vehicle access to beach and Pillar Pt. Denniston Creek - Hwy 1 north from Hwy 92. Left on Capistrano St. Turn left onto Prospect Way. Access via Broadway street next to creek.

**Land Access:** Beaches are gated, contact Harbor Master or San Mateo Co for access. Most are drivable- 4WD or ATV.

**On-Water Limitations:** Only modestly shallow nearshore. There are abundant boat services available.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Best staging, equipment and services are available at Pillar Pt. Harbor and Half Moon Bay airport. Contact County OES and Harbor Master regarding staging.

**Communications Problems:** Good cell reception in area.

