

2-572-A Site Summary - Tolay Creek Marshes**2-572-A****County:** Sonoma **ACP Division/Segment:** SN - S - S001 SN - S - S002**NOAA Chart:** 18654 San Pablo Bay **Map Book:** **Decimal Degrees:** 38.11727 -122.458318**Site Description:**

Site includes the San Pablo Bay frontage from mouth of Petaluma River to Tubbs Island (Midshipman's Point) and includes 3 miles of Tolay Creek up to Hwy 37 and adjacent tributary wildlife areas aka San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS). The salt-marshes between Petaluma River and Tolay Creek are prograding and shallow very gradually, supporting 100 to 200 meter wide continuum of biota from tidal flat to high marsh: unvegetated to cordgrass to pickleweed dominated. Tolay Creek itself is an incised channel through a wide flood plain (300+ meters) of pickleweed salt-marsh and bounded by aged levees. Another salt-marsh, Sonoma Bay Lands Wetland, has an open tidal exchange channel about 1.5 mile west of Tolay Creek. Midshipman's point is used by harbor seals as an occasional haulout during low tides.

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

6B Riprap

9B Vegetated low banks

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	California Ridgeway's rail	FE, SE	Year-round	Feb-Aug
Birds	California black rail	FP, ST	Year-round	Mar-Aug
Birds	common yellowthroat	FP, SSC	Year-round	Jun-Aug
Fish	longfin smelt	ST	Year-round	Nov-May
Invertebrates	Dungeness crab nursery		Year-round	
Mammals	salt-marsh harvest mouse	FE, SE	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	Suisun ornate shrew	SSC	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
E	/Dispatch, 24-hr	Sonoma County Sheriffs	(707) 565-2231
T	/Environmental Program Manager	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Bay Delta Region	(707) 576-2837
T	/Agency Representative	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3232
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:

Migratory shorebirds and waterfowl occur here in increased numbers September-April.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

This is very sensitive habitat with threatened and endangered species present. Exclude oil from entering Tolay Creek and adjacent wetlands: boom creek mouth and tidal channels and close tide gates. Deflect oil away from this site. Any oil arriving at this site should be deflected to collection locales and prevented from free movement where possible. Protect salt-marsh fronts from oiling and oil penetration into sediments. Avoid trampling marsh and trampling oil into marsh muds during cleanup. Be aware of oil penetrating animal burrows.

Hazard and Restrictions:

This area is very shallow and therefore difficult to access via water except in Tolay Creek Channel during flood tide cycles.

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

Strategy: 2-572.1 Objective: Exclude oil from Tolay Creek and other openings to marsh. Access by skiff from land or via water route.

Strategy: (a) Deploy 700' of 6X6+ Hboom at the mouth of Tolay Creek in a modified diagonal from Midshipman Point across the channel to a point about 150' west of the mouth, with this anchor point well high in the marsh. Approximately 20' of Hboom should wrap around Midshipman Point. A midpoint anchor must be positioned in the channel (just off the east bank) to keep the boom from sagging into a catenary curve. Back with a sorbent boom layer. Repeat configuration if there is a wind chop or waves.

(b) Exclude oil from tidal cuts and inlets. Deploy 100' 6X6+ Hboom as exclusion boom at entrance of Sonoma Bay Lands Marsh 1 mile west of Tolay Creek. Deploy 50' chevron exclusion booms in front of each of the three tidal culverts to the east of the creek mouth. Close the tidal gate at the levee near the creek mouth.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	6x6 inch		950	feet	
Boom	Sorbent			400	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	22 lb		6		
Vessel	Boom Boat			1		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			5		

Strategy: 2-572.2 Objective: Divert to prevent oil from moving up channel while in San Pablo Bay still away from shoreline.

Strategy: Diversion booming: If oil is posing a threat, it will move up channel which cuts across the shallow flats of San Pablo Bay. A diversion boom across that channel to divert oil out of the tidal current and onto flats, will afford protection to the Creek mouth. Divert to windward. Deployment will require 200 ft of Hboom. Deploy at higher tide with a shallow draft boom boat.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	9x9 inch		200	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	22 lb		3		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			2		

Strategy: 2-572.3 Objective: Protection booming to prevent oil from accumulating along the marshy shoreline of San Pablo Bay. Consider that this deployment will require intensive resources and time in the short navigable intervals.

Strategy: Deploy a layer of harbor or swamp boom along the marshy frontage from Tolay Creek mouth westerly to Petaluma River mouth. Deploy during periods of higher tides to permit approach near shore using shallow draft boomboats. Set boom as close to vegetation as possible. Anchor at 600' intervals and stake as necessary to secure. Under severe oil threat, two layers and a sorbent backup may be required. Two layers of swamp boom set about 10 feet apart would be equivalent to harbor boom.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	9x9 inch		10500	feet	
Anchor	Danforth					
Vessel	Boom Boat			4		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			14		

Logistics:

Directions: Vehicle access to the mouth of Tolay Creek is from Hwy 37 through the locked gate (USFWS) at the DFW wildlife area parking lot (1/2 mile east of Tolay Creek on south side of Hwy) on rough levee roads. By boat, proceed East from Petaluma River Channel in San Pablo Bay to creek mouth.

Land Access: Limited access for large trucks. Seasonally impassible on earth levees.

On-Water Limitations: Channel may be navigable at high tide. Very shallow mudflats. Punt launch at Midshipman Pt and Hwy 37.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Best staging site is Petaluma River Launch. Small skiff deployments can be staged at Black Point.

Communications Problems: Cell reception varies.

