

**2-670-A Site Summary - Honker Bay****2-670-A****County:** Solano **ACP Division/Segment:****NOAA Chart:** SUISUN BAY  
18658/18556/18656**Map Book:****Decimal Degrees:** 38.067913 -121.932189**Site Description:**

This site includes all the open water of Honker Bay and its salt-marsh perimeter. The bay is shallow (averaging less than six feet deep but is without obstruction except near shorelines where it can be very shallow). On most margins, there are barrow channels separating the historic marsh front from the current island levee. This results in a band of salt-marsh islands with occasional passages through to the barrow channels and other historic marsh channels behind. Although there is some emergent salt-marsh along the rip-rapped island levee, the outer perimeter is a premium strip of native salt-marsh. As a result, there are several hundred acres of undiked salt-marsh. The outer bay margin is exposed to wave action resulting in a mildly eroding shore with some accreting margins particularly in the northeast corner of the bay (North Honker Bay site 2-672). The land around Honker Bay is mostly held by private duck clubs. The response strategy here has been broken up into three separate divisions, because of the shoreline complexity and length, the logistics of response, and the likelihood that oil would impact at different timeframes on the different shores. The shoreline is subdivided into West Honker Bay (2-671) from Champion Slough to Rock Creek; North Honker Bay (2-672) in the northeast corner from Rock Creek to Spoonbill Creek; and East Honker Bay (2-673) the shore of Chipps Island from Spoonbill Creek west. Most of these shores are mildly eroding, but in the northeast section is accreting.

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

9B Vegetated low banks

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	migratory waterfowl	FP		
Birds	Suisun song sparrow	FP, SSC		Mar-Jul
Birds	California black rail	FP, ST		Mar-Aug
Fish	longfin smelt	ST		Nov-May
Fish	delta smelt	FT, SE		Mar-May
Mammals	salt-marsh harvest mouse	FE, SE		
Plants	Mason's lilaeopsis	SR		Apr-Nov
Plants	Suisun marsh aster	SSSP		May-Nov

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	/Dispatch, 24-hr	California Department of Water Resources	(916) 574-2714
O	/Office	Suisun Resource Conservation District	(707) 425-9302
T	/Environmental Program Manager	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Bay Delta Region	(707) 576-2837
T	/Wildlife Area Manager	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Grizzly Island WR	(707) 738-3485
T	/Oil Spill Point of Contact	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(707) 480-3496
T	/Restoration Ecologist	US Department of Agriculture	(530) 304-2304

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 marshes at the shoreline are home to many kinds of birds and animals, including endangered plants, birds, and animals. The major concerns are two. First, there are many tidal channels through which the oil can pass and harm even greater areas behind the bay front. Second, oil can get on the front edge of the salt-marsh. Harm from response actions is always a concern.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

There are shallows and obstructions along shore and inside the barrow channels. The open waters of Honker Bay can have formidable waves when there are strong westerly winds.

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

**Strategy: 2-670.1 Objective:** Skimming to intercept oil approaching the bay with towed skimming arrays

*Strategy:* The first line of protection is to remove as much oil as possible before the oil can impact shorelines. As for all of northern Suisun Bay this can be accomplished through the deployment of several self contained skimming vessels, or mini skimmers. Each skimming vessel should be supported by two boom boats in V booming configuration off the bow of the skimmer to maximize encounter rate. Each of these supporting vessels should deploy 200 ft of boom between itself and the skimmer. This skimming strategy will probably be most effective between Snagg Island and Simmon's Point. Aerial support is needed to direct skimmers to the leading edge or densest oil, and report entrainment under the boom and skimmer.

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**Strategy: 2-670.2 Objective:** Diversion to collection if heavy oil is approaching the shore, divert the oil to collection areas.

*Strategy:* Deploy exclusion/deflection boom at the best angle fend oil past marshfront to designated collection area.

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**Strategy: 2-670.3 Objective:** Protection/exclusion boom: Protect the 2-mile stretch of marshfront from approaching heavy oil slick.

*Strategy:* Deploy exclusion/deflection boom at the best angle fend oil past marshfront to designated collection area. Protect windward shore from approaching oil. If there is a wind chop, this may best be accomplished using two layers of 6X6 Hboom, else a single layer of 9x9+: this strategy for deployment can be found in Potential Oil-Spill Protection Strategies for San Francisco Bay, California. (Hayes and Montelo, 1994). Requires 11,000' of Hboom or tidal barrier boom.

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**Last Page Update****Logistics:**

*Directions:* Except for Chipps Island, there land access is from the private levee roads along the bay. They may be reached from Hwy 12 in Suisun City, then south on Grizzly Island road to Grizzly Island Wildlife Refuge. For further access and entry, contact Grizzly Island Wildlife Refuge (707-425-3828) or Suisun Resource Conservation District staff (707-525-9602). Nearest boat access is 3 miles southeast at McAvoy's Marina, Bay Point (9 miles to Martinez, 7 miles to Pittsburg).

*Land Access:* ALL TYPES WHEN LEVEES ARE DRY.

*On-Water Limitations:* VERY SHALLOW DRAFT < 2' NEAR SHORE. McAvoy/Harris Marina at Bay Point. Pittsburg Marina. Martinez Marina. All services and fuels available.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* The duck clubs have power and good small boat docking facilities. Otherwise best staging is McAvoy's at Bay Point. Much further away are Pittsburg and Martinez. All have vessel services.

*Communications Problems:*