

County: **Sonoma**USGS Quad: **7.5" Quad: Gualala, CA**

Thomas Guide Location

Sonoma County

NOAA Chart: **18640**

Latitude N

3 8 46

Longitude W

123 32

Last Page Update : 1/1/1996

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

The beach extends from the Gualala River mouth south to the first rocky headland. Site is associated with BLM Ca Coastal National Monument resources. A sandspit closes the mouth of this river when freshwater flow stops during the summer and early fall. The sand spit is a relatively steep coarse-grained sand beach, backed by small vegetated sand dunes. Beach extends from the Gualala River south to the first rocky headland. A lagoon develops behind the sand spit with extensive freshwater wetlands on the south shore. The north bank of the river is a steep rocky bluff with fringing marsh and rip-rap of broken concrete below the town.

**SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

Marshes at river mouth/lagoon are priority "A" all year. Beach is priority "A" during smelt spawning season (February through July); during the remainder of the year, beach is priority "B" due to harbor seal haulout activity.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

Marsh habitat for migratory shorebirds, fish, and waterfowl heaviest during fall and winter.

Freshwater marsh at risk all year.

Harbor seal haulout on outer sand beach near end of sand spit all year.

Shorebirds and waterfowl migrate and use area mainly in fall and winter months, but is inhabited all year.

Passerine songbirds use the riparian and brush habitat along the river banks all year.

Harbor seals use outer sand beach area for haulout. River otters in the river.

Smelt use the intertidal zones of the beaches near the river mouth for spawning February through July.

Migratory fish species (salmon and steelhead) move through the river in the fall and winter to spawn. Young fingerlings and smolts may be in the lagoon all year.

Riparian willow and sedge habitat along the river banks. Vegetated dunes on south side of the river.

**CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**

Historically, a rich area of human inhabitation. Contact the California Dept of Parks and Recreation - Office of Historic Preservation (Eric Allison -(916) 653-9125), and the Northwest Information Center, (Bryan Much, Sonoma State College ((707) 332-1117)) for specific information on historic or cultural resources in this area.

**KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)**

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
O	Jonathan Bishop Oil Spill Prgm Coord.	CA Coastal Commission	(415) 904-5247
O	Alison Detmer	CA Coastal Commission	(415) 904-5205
E	Mike Henderson	Anchor Bay Campground, Owner	(707) 884-4222
E/T	David Ledig	BLM Ca Coastal Monument	(831) 630-5006
E/T	James Weigand	BLM Ca Coastal Monument	(916) 978-4656

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

## 2-100 -A Site Strategy - Gualala River Inlet

County and Thomas Guide Location  
Sonoma County Sonoma

NOAA CHART  
18640

## 2-100 -A

Latitude N Longitude W  
3 8 46 123 32

Last Page Update : 7/1/2005

### CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Contamination and injury to marsh and riparian habitat, waterfowl, shorebirds, harbor seals and fish. Dune vegetation may also be at risk from cleanup activities and traffic. The concerns are oil contamination and response activity impacts to wetlands, rare and endangered species, and other vulnerable plants and wildlife which are present throughout the year. The primary objective is to minimize the exposure of oil to plants, animals and habitats present at this site. Other concerns are the impacts resulting from response activities. Avoid trampling wetlands, sensitive plants and animals, and soft mudflats, causing penetration of oil into the sediments and further injury to the environment.

### HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

High waves, wind, swift river currents.

### SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-100.1 Objective: Exclusion not necessary when a berm is blocking mouth.

If sand berm is blocking lagoon entrance, no action needed unless it appears that surf will over-top the berm. If so, employ method "2."

Strategy 2-100.2 Objective: Exclude oil when there is tidal exchange at lagoon mouth or when waves are overtopping berm. Protect riprap and fringing marsh on town side of river.

If surf is over-topping beach berm into lagoon, use bulldozers and front-end loaders to build up barrier berm by skimming sand from neighboring flat beach (not dunes). Use plastic and sand bags as necessary to create a temporary non-erodible barrier. Deploy boom as follows: line northern shoreline with sorbent boom. Use deflection boom to either divert oil away from northeastern shore -a) to backside of spit or, b) to possible skimmer(s) stationed between island and southwest shore. All containment boom backed by sorbent boom. To collect oil in case of accumulation, use 50ft of oil snare, 100 ft of sorbent boom. Contact IC if oil accumulates and skimmers become necessary.

Strategy 2-100.3 Objective: Exclusion when there are heavy river outflows

If heavy outflow due to run-off prevents entry of oil from the sea to the lagoon, no immediate action may be necessary. Maintain watch on lagoon outflow and implement booms when flow begins to diminish enough that outflow no longer repels surf-borne oil and erect barrier as necessary and feasible (see strategy 2).

Strategy 2-100.4 Objective: Oil Recovery by skimming

If skimmer is deemed necessary by IC, station between island and southwest shore

### Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	tvce and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or comment	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-100.1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0		On-water Recovery / ART		
2-100.2	2000		50 os	3100	25	18-25/25-25#/danforth w chain & lin	0	4			4 front-end loaders/dozers, sand bags, plastic rol	20	
2-100.3	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0				
2-100.4	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	2	tsa/sps	0		

### LOGISTICS

**DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)**

Hwy 101 to Santa Rosa, west on Hwy 12 to Hwy 116; proceed on 116 west to Hwy1 at Jenner; proceed north on Hwy 1 to Gualala. Access is from south Gualala Point County Park - south side of river is primary access. Can also access from Tree Farm Rd at north end of Hwy 1 bridge crossing Gualala River. The beach extends from the Gualala River mouth south to the first rocky headland. Site is associated with BLM Ca Coastal National Monument resources.

**LAND ACCESS:** Gualala Pt access south side of river, also at Tree Farm Rd on north

**WATER LOGISTICS:** Large surf oceanside, shallow water in river

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Small skiffs hand launch in river  
and Services Available:

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

Gualala Point County Park. Decon could be done at beach parking lot.

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:**

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:** Communications via two-way radio and landline only.

