

County: Sonoma

USGS Quad: 7.5" Quad: Stewarts Pt, CA

Thomas Guide Location

Sonoma County

NOAA Chart: 18640

Latitude N

3 8 39

Longitude W

123 24

Last Page Update : 1/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Site includes the wave-cut rocky platforms around the headland at Stewart's Point and the large offshore rock, Stewart's Point Island. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area: Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area. Exposed rocky cliffs with wave cut platforms at headland. One large island (Stewarts Point Island) with additional wash rocks and a gravel tombolo off the point and a few small islands north of point. Fine to medium grain pocket beaches followed by 10 feet of cobble which are backed by cliffs between headlands.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Priority "B" all year. Harbor seals present throughout the year.

Shorebirds are present all year but especially abundant during spring and fall migration.

Intertidal plants and animals, mussel beds and tidepools are present all year.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Extensive rocky intertidal habitat, including tidepools, mussel beds and algal beds. Harbor seal haulout area.

Intertidal areas used by a variety of shorebirds throughout the year but especially during spring and fall migrations.

Harbor seals use offshore rocks and reefs to haul out throughout the year (ca. 300) and occasionally have their pups in the spring.

Kelp forests are present offshore during the summer and into late fall.

The intertidal rocky platforms support endangered black abalone, extensive mussel beds; rich assemblages of algae and invertebrates; tidepools with anemones, fishes, snails and crabs.

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
E		CA State Parks, Northern Comms Center (Dispatch)	(916) 358-0333
T	Becky Ota Marine Conservation MGR	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
E	Charles Richardson	Owner Ranch and Stewarts Pt Stores	(707) 785-2406
T	Steve Wertz Senior Env.Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-110 -B Site Strategy - Stewart's Point

County and Thomas Guide Location

Sonoma County Sonoma

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2-110 -B

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Contamination and injury to harbor seals, rocky intertidal plants and animals, and shorebirds. Pooling of oil under rocks and in tidepools is possible during low energy periods. Saturation of coarse grain sand beaches.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

High wave energy, eroding bluffs, slippery and uneven rocky intertidal areas.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-110.1 Objective: Divert oil away from rocky reefs and harbor seal haulout areas and towards less sensitive areas for collection.

This site is difficult 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. When water conditions do permit, divert oil away from haulout areas to fine grain sand beaches for collection.

Tombolo not suitable for stranding oil because of sheer access.

Strategy 2-110.2 Objective: Alternative techniques

Alternative should be carefully considered since this site is difficult 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.

a) Deploy a large offshore skimming effort. Use of large vessels for deployment of ocean boom to divert oil past pocket coves and tombolo.

b) Pursue feasibility of alternative response technologies (e.g. dispersants and in-situ burning) to reduce the volume of oil reaching the site.

c) Pre-clean debris from shoreline.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-110.1	1500				12 12 x 25-40#	2				6	
2-110.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 On-water Recovery / ART		

LOGISTICS

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

Hwy 101 to Santa Rosa, take Hwy 12 west to Hwy 116, continue west to Hwy 1 at Jenner on the coast. Proceed north on Hwy 1, site is between Fort Ross and Sea Ranch. Site is approximately two miles south of Sea Ranch. Site includes the wave-cut rocky platforms around the headland at Stewart's Point and the large offshore rock, Stewart's Point Island. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area: Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area.

LAND ACCESS: Private locked access for vehicles - contact Stewarts Pt store.

WATER LOGISTICS: Dangerous surf possible; submerged rocks

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Beach launching possible across beach under calm conditions with heavy 4WD vehicle.

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

Staging areas would be on private land at access road (contact Stewarts Pt Store) to Stewarts Pt. Access road is just north of Stewarts Pt store.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

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

