

County: **Sonoma/Marin Counties**
 USGS Quad: **7.5" Quad: Valley Ford, CA**

Thomas Guide Location

Marin County

Latitude N

3 8 18

Longitude W

123 00

NOAA Chart: **Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643**

Last Page Update : 1/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Located within Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary on the Marin-Sonoma County line. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area: EsterAmerican State Marine Recreation Management Area from the mouth extending approximately two miles upstream. Site is associated with BLM Ca Coastal National Monument resources. Site is a large estuary, open to the ocean seasonally. Very strong flood currents are present at the mouth of the Estero. Coarse-grained sand is found on the south spit and southern shoreline. Gravel is on the north bank. The inlet now opens on the north side of the canyon.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Priority A all year due to use by the snowy plover on the beaches and the presence of wetlands. Migratory shorebirds and waterfowl concentrated at this site during the fall and winter.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Saltwater and freshwater marshes are located along both banks and eelgrass beds in shallow areas of saltwater influence.

Western snowy plover, northern harrier, tidewater goby, and the whistling swan are all threatened, endangered, or species of special concern that occur in the Estero. Migratory shorebirds, California brown pelican, and waterfowl (dabbling and diving ducks), and sea ducks use this site extensively throughout the year.

River otters may be found in the Estero.

The western pond turtle occurs further up the Estero in the freshwater.

Eelgrass beds are present near the mouth in the saltwater influenced portions of the estuary.

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	Main Office	Point Blue Conservation Science	(707) 781-2555
T	24hr Sanctuary Personnel	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 479-5311
O	Jonathan Bishop Oil Spill Prgm Coord.	CA Coastal Commission	(415) 904-5247
O	Alison Detmer	CA Coastal Commission	(415) 904-5205
T	David Ledig	BLM Ca Coastal Monument	(831) 630-5006
T	Becky Ota Marine Conservation MGR	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
T	James Weigand	BLM Ca Coastal Monument	(916) 978-4656
T	Steve Wertz Senior Env.Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-155 -A Site Strategy - Estero Americano

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin County Sonoma/Marin Counties

NOAA CHART

Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643

2-155 -A

Latitude N

3 8 18

Longitude W

123 00

Last Page Update : 7/1/2005

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

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:

Shallow water areas inside the Estero and heavy surf conditions are possible outside the mouth of the Estero.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-155.1 Objective: Exclude oil from entering the estuary.

In addition to on-water recovery efforts, the following site-specific protection measures should be taken:

Under conditions where the estuary is isolated from the ocean by a sand berm but potential exists for tidal washover into the estuary exists, construct a sediment dike. Sediment should be taken from the beach face south of the river mouth. There may be washover terraces requiring reinforcement at both the north and south sides of the estuary mouth. Each may be 100 meters (300 feet) wide. It is recommended that a shallow ditch be constructed on the backside of the dike (a runnel) near the top to catch any oil that washes over the top of the dike.

Heavy equipment can be safely driven to the beach from road on north shore of Estero or if seas are calm enough use a landing craft to land heavy equipment on beach.

Strategy 2-155.2 Objective: Exclude oil from entering the estuary. Prevent oil from entering seawater intake to aquaculture facility.

a) Boom will be necessary when it is expected that seawater may flow into the estuary during the flood tide. Up to 1,500 feet of boom having a minimum freeboard/floatation of 6" and a minimum draft/skirt of 6" may be needed. Consider wind direction, expected current velocity and oil recovery logistics when selecting which shoreline to deflect oil to.

Deploy 500 feet of boom from the north end of the vegetated high berm to a large rock on the north shore of the estuary at the bottom of the road to the water intake for the aquaculture facility, and another 600 feet from the back (east) side of the high berm to a large rock on the north shore of the estuary about 600 feet east of the road. Six skiffs capable of towing boom and setting anchors will be needed to deploy the boom. Two must be left to tend the boom. Use 50ft of Oil Snare, 100ft of sorbent boom to clean up oil that may accumulate. If skimmer is deemed necessary, contact IC prior for possible deployment.

b) Place 200 feet of sorbent boom around the seawater intake for the aquaculture facility. Keep the manager of the aquaculture facility informed of the location of the oil so he may store seawater in tanks at his facility and otherwise prepare to shut down his pumps.

Strategy 2-155.3 Objective: Minimize shoreline cleanup and restoration.

Place 300 feet of fabric or other material along the north shoreline of the estuary to prevent oil penetration into the sediments and minimize the amount of shoreline cleanup required.

Strategy 2-155.4 Objective: Oil Recovery by skimming

If oil accumulates in skimmable quantities as a result of strategy .2, deploy skimmers in appropriate area. Contact IC prior to initiation of this strategy.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	tvpe and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or comment and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-155.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		On-water Recovery / ART	10	
2-155.2	1500		50 os	300	10	10 x 20lb.	0	6				20	
2-155.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		300 ft ground cover fabric		
2-155.4	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	2	0			

LOGISTICS

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

The best access to this site is through an aquaculture facility on the north shore of the Estero. To get there from Hwy 1, take Estero Lane between Valley Ford and Bodega. The aquaculture facility can be reached via 3.2 miles of unpaved road. It may be desirable to do some improvements to this road before driving large trucks to the aquaculture facility. Located within

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary on the Marin-Sonoma County line. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area: EsterAmerican State Marine Recreation Management Area from the mouth extending approximatley two miles upstream. Site is associated with BLM Ca Coastal National Monument resources.

LAND ACCESS: The road is 3.2 miles long, and is unpaved.

WATER LOGISTICS: Skiffs must be able to tow boom and set anchors in 2 ft.
Limitations: depth, obstruction
Launching, Loading, Docking Hand launch skiffs across shore on north bank.
and Services Available:

FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:
Staging area could be established at the aquaculture facility.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: Sandy shore south of estuary behind spit is alternate containment & recovery site.

