

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

Thomas Guide Location

Marin County

Latitude N

3 8 16

Longitude W

123 59

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

Last Page Update : 1/1/1996

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Located within Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary near the Marin-Sonoma County line. The waterway from the rivermouth and approximately two miles upstream is the Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area. Site is associated with BLM Ca Coastal National Monument resources. Estuary is open to the ocean seasonally. Subject to strong flood currents near the mouth. South spit is wide and sparsely vegetated with a moderately steep coarse-grained beach. The inlet has been deflected to the north side of the canyon. Gravel beaches and cliffs are present along the north bank. Brackish water marshes are present along banks inside estuary.

**SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

A priority all year. Used by several threatened and endangered species throughout the year. Migratory shorebirds and waterfowl (dabbling and diving ducks), and sea ducks use area during fall and winter months.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

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

The western snowy plover, northern harrier, and the tidewater goby 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 area during fall and winter months.

River otters may be present.

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

**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          |
|------|---------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| 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:**

## 2-158 -A Site Strategy - Estero de San Antonio

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin County Marin

NOAA CHART

Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643

## 2-158 -A

Latitude N

3 8 16

Longitude W

123 59

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 in the estuary and heavy surf along the coastal beach.

### SITE STRATEGIES

#### Strategy 2-158.1 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 small sand berm but a potential for overwash into the estuary exists, construct a sediment dike. Sediment should be taken from the beach face south of the river mouth. The washover terrace may be 100 meters (300 feet) wide. It is recommended that a 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.

Options for getting heavy equipment to the estuary mouth: a) drive to beach from the road on south shore of estero, or b) transport via shallow draft vessel from a ranch up the estuary, or c) using landing craft when seas are calm, land heavy equipment on beach.

#### Strategy 2-158.2 Objective: Exclude oil from entering the estuary.

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. There is a mixed sand and gravel beach on the north shore and a sand beach on the south shore of the estuary.

a) Deploy 1,500 feet of boom from the north end of the high berm on the south side of the estuary mouth to a gravel beach on the north shore of the estuary stranding oil along the north bank. Alternatively, deploy boom from the bluff on the north side of the estuary mouth to the sand beach on the back (east) side of the spit, stranding oil along the south bank.

Two skiffs capable of towing boom & setting anchors will be needed to deploy and tend the boom. It is recommended that a small shallow draft barge be launched at the Pozzi or Fanning ranches up the estero. Such a barge could be towed out to the ranch when the water reaches maximum depth in the fall. The other option is to repair the dirt road leading to the estero mouth from the south. 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 of 6 inches and a minimum draft of 6 inches may be needed. Use 50ft of Oil Snare, 100ft of sorbent boom to recover any oil that may accumulate. If oil accumulates in skimmable quantities, contact IC prior to skimmer deployment.

b) Place 300 feet of shoreline protection fabric along the shoreline to which the oil is deflected to minimize the amount of shoreline clean-up required.

#### Strategy 2-158.3 Objective: Oil Recovery by skimming

If oil accumulates in skimmable quantities as a result of strategy .2, use of 2 portable skimmers and portable oil storage facilities will be needed to recover the oil as it accumulates. Contact IC prior to deploying skimmers.

### 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 and kinds | staff deploy | Staff tend |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|--|--------------|------------|
| 2-158.1         | 0           | 0          | 0               | 0         | 0 0                        | 0         | 0 0          | 0 0              | On-water Recovery / ART                | 6            |            |
| 2-158.2         | 1500        |            | 50 os           | 100       |                            | 0         | 2            |                  |  | 12           |            |
| 2-158.3         | 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.)**

From Hwy 1 at Valley Ford, take the Valley Ford Franklin School Road southbound. Near Whitacker Bluff Road it will cross the upper end of the Estero. Small boats (skiffs) can be hand launched here. The site is bounded by private property and it

is unknown whether there are farm roads which lead to the Estero mouth. Located within Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary near the Marin-Sonoma County line. The waterway from the rivermouth and approxiamtely two miles upstream is the Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area. Site is associated with BLM Ca Coastal National Monument resources.

**LAND ACCESS:** Dirt road leads to Estero mouth from the south-needs repair.

**WATER LOGISTICS:** Sandbar sometimes isolates estuary from sea.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking The Pozzi and Fanning ranches are up the Estero  
and Services Available:

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

The mixed sand and gravel north shoreline just inside the estuary mouth has good shoreline access there for the support of recovery equipment and is the preferred containment site. An alternate site is the sandy shore of the estuary behind the spit but is not preferred because access for support equipment is difficult at best.

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:**

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:** Strategy has not been deployed or tested.

