

County: **Marin**
 USGS Quad: **7.5" Quad: Tomales, CA**

Thomas Guide Location
 Marin County
 Latitude N 3 8 14
 Longitude W 122 58
 NOAA Chart: **Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643**

Last Page Update : 7/1/2005

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Site includes shoreline and tidal areas east of the mouth of Tomales Bay from Sand Point to Vincent Landing, which is east of Tom's Point. Also included in the site are the extensive mudflat islands between Sand Point and Tom's Point: Clam Island and Seal Island. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Though most of the current of Tomales Bay flows through the main channel, a secondary channel splits off perpendicularly (to the east) at Sand Point resulting in strong tidal currents, on both ebb and flood. This channel divides and subsequent channels and bars change rapidly and often. There is a lot of sediment and debris deposition here, both on the bars and the shorelines. Only a few locals know how to navigate the waters without fear of grounding. Mudflats and islands are rich in invertebrates and sustain heavy use by both man and dense migratory bird populations. The southern tip of the mudflat islands are also heavily used by pinnipeds as haulouts. The shallow intertidal also has extensive eelgrass beds. The north (Lawson's Landing - Sand Pt) and eastern margins are extensive sand beaches, Brazil Beach on the east. Just to the east of Tom's Pt is a large freshwater - saltwater marsh on the Audubon Canyon Ranch lands. The margins are in private ownerships: Lawson's Landing is heavily used by vacationers and day users; private individuals and Audubon own the eastern margin.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

"A" priority all year due to wetlands and a variety of listed plants and animals which use the area. There is heavy use by migratory shorebirds and waterfowl in fall and winter. Harbor seal pups March to June. margin.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Primary habitats of concern are marshy areas between Tom's Pt and Vincent Landing and at the north end of Brail Beach. Also of great concern are the mudflat islands, both because they are important seal haulouts and because they are habitat for impressive sport clam beds and other invertebrate populations. There are also eelgrass beds throughout this site.

Several bird species of special concern are resident or casual visitors. California threatened species such as the California black rail, salt marsh yellowthroat, and merlin are typical in the marshes. Brown pelicans are found here occasionally or seasonally. Herons, egrets, shorebirds and waterfowl use the site throughout the year. Shorebirds and waterfowl, including large numbers of brant, are very abundant here as they are elsewhere throughout the bay during the fall and winter months (Oct-Apr) and many are resident throughout the year.

Up to 450 harbor seals haul out on exposed mud and sand flats with up to 50 pups in the spring.

The mud islands support a major sport fishing for gaper clams. Herring spawn on eelgrass throughout the northern 2/3rds of the bay during the winter months (Nov-Feb) and viable eggs (Feb-Apr).

Eelgrass beds in shallow channel between points of land. Two listed plants occur in the wetlands; Pickleweed (*Salicornia bigelovii*) and Pt. Reyes bird's-beak (*Corydanthus maritimus palustris*) in areas of freshwater inflow.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

This is a culturally sensitive area as is the entire margin of Tomales Bay. For specific sites, contact the Pt. Reyes Park headquarters archeological staff, the California Dept of Parks and Recreation - Historically, a rich area of human habitation. 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/T	24hr Sanctuary Personnel	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 479-5311
E	John Finger	Hog Island Oyster Co	(415) 663-9218
O	John Kelly	Audubon Canyon Ranch	(415) 868-9214
E/O	Michael Lawson Owner	Lawson's Landing Store & Campground	(707) 878-2443
E/T	Pt. Reyes NP Dispatch PRNS	US National Park Service, Pt. Reyes (NS), Ranger	(415) 464-5170

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-166 -A Site Strategy - Sand Point to Toms Point

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin County Marin

NOAA CHART

Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643

2-166 -A

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Oil at this site may be detrimental to the wetlands, clams beds, eelgrass beds, marine mammals and waterfowl that use this site. 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:

Extremely strong tidal currents near the mouth of the bay. Shallow tidal bars and flats exist throughout the bay. Submerged oyster aquaculture facility structures common on the eastern side of the central bay.

SITE STRATEGIES

A portion of flood current into the bay cuts past Sand Point toward Lawson's Landing and Brazil Beach. The channel is near shore and the current is swift. Some of these waters are extremely shallow, currents are very swift, channels are narrow: booming should be undertaken with the assistance of local oystermen who are familiar with this area (John Finger - Hog Island Oyster Company (415) 663-9218 or Gene Maffucci (415) 663-1639.)

Strategy 2-166.1 Objective: exclusion/deflection/collection: when severe oil impacts are threatening, exclude oil entry by deflection to shoreside beach collection at Lawson's Landing.

Cascade three 500 foot sections of curtain (harbor) boom in the channel south of Lawson's Landing to deflect oil north away from Clam Island (just off shore) and onto the sand beach at Lawson's Landing east of Sand Point. The boom must be deployed at sharp angles to the swift along-shore current to avoid entrainment of oil under booms. One boom boat and a skiff are needed to deploy the boom. Use 50ft of Oil Snare (OS) and/or 100ft of sorbent boom to collect oil that may have accumulated, and a collection site may need to be excavated on the sand beaches at Lawson's Landing. (This strategy is to be joined to the primary exclusion/collection strategy for Tomales Bay 164.2) Consult IC if oil begins to occur in skimmable quantities.

Strategy 2-166.2 Objective: Diversion to shore / Collection at eastern Brazil Beach when severe oil impacts are threatening.

Oil may be deflected to Brazil Beach by cascading several sections of boom from the north end of Seal Island to the southeast end of Brazil Beach. Up to 2,000 feet of 9X9+ curtain boom and heavy anchors are needed to accomplish this task. One shallow draft boom boat and a skiff will be needed to deploy and anchor the boom. Use 50ft of Oil Snare (OS) and/or 100ft of sorbent boom to collect oil that may have accumulated and Consult IC if oil begins to occur in skimmable quantities. This strategy may be reversed if oil is to be collected on the ebb. There is a lot of ebb current causing this area to be a natural collection site.

Strategy 2-166.3 Objective: Collection and Skimming for 2-166.1 and 2-166.2 boom deployments if significant quantities of oil can be accumulated.

Use skimmer to collect oil if it accumulates in skimmable quantities as a result of strategies 2-166.1 and 2-166.2. A shore side skimmer and a portable storage device can located at Lawson's Landing (2-166.1) or at east side of Brazil Beach. Good access at both locations. Permission of owners (particularly at 2-166.2) is important (See DFG for private owner contacts for entry and using shoreside roads and ramp).

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
2-166.1	1500		50 OS	100	8 22+##/danforth + 10 1" chain	1	1			5	
2-166.2	2000		50 OS	100	10 22+##/danforth + 10' chain & stakes	1	1	1 SSS	Shallow draft boom boat	5	
2-166.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 SSS	0		

LOGISTICS

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

Highway 1 follows the eastern shoreline of Tomales Bay. To get to Hwy 1 from Hwy 101: in San Rafael, take the Sir Francis Drake exit and proceed west to Olema and Pt. Reyes Station; in Petaluma, take the Pt. Reyes Petaluma Road to Pt. Reyes Station at the head of the bay, or take the Tomales Petaluma Road to the mouth of the bay. Site includes shoreline and tidal areas east of the mouth of Tomales Bay from Sand Point to Vincent Landing, which is east of Tom's Point. Also included in the site are the extensive mudflat islands between Sand Point and Tom's Point: Clam Island and Seal Island. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

LAND ACCESS: Access through private land

WATER LOGISTICS: Very shallow water, shallow draft boats only
Limitations: depth, obstruction
Launching, Loading, Docking Can launch boats at Lawson's Landing and Nick's Cove.
and Services Available:

FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:
Staging and facilities at Lawson's Landing. Staging at Nick's Cove.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

