

County: **Marin**
 USGS Quad: **Tomales,Drakes Bay, Inverness**

Thomas Guide Location
 Marin County
 NOAA Chart: **Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643**

Latitude N
 38 12
 Longitude W
 122 57

Last Page Update : 7/1/2002

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Small bay on west shore of Tomales Bay within Philip Burton Wilderness of Point Reyes National Seashore. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. A small bay lined with freshwater and saltwater marsh vegetation. Eelgrass beds are present in the shallow water areas inside and offshore of the bay.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

This is an "A" priority year-round due to extensive marsh habitat supporting listed species such as the, saltmarsh yellowthroat (songbird) and the northcoast birds-beak (plant). Eelgrass beds are in the bay. Waterfowl are abundant during the fall and winter months.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Saltwater wetlands around the bayfront and freshwater wetlands up the gulch. Eelgrass beds are in shallow water areas inside and offshore of the bay. A variety of waterfowl and seabirds can be found in the bay at any time of year. Tule elk occasionally can be found near the shore feeding on marsh vegetation.

A variety of listed species and those vulnerable to oil spills can be found here throughout the year, such as: saltmarsh common yellowthroat, American white pelican, brown pelican, osprey, wading birds and waterfowl.

Tule elk and river otters may occasionally visit the shoreline and wetlands.

Herring spawn in the eelgrass during the winter months (Nov-Feb) and viable eggs (Feb-Apr). Surfperch and halibut can also be found in the bay.

Eelgrass beds are a predominant concern. The North coast bird's-beak, and endangered plant, can be found on the upper marsh areas. A variety of saltwater and freshwater plant species are present at this site.

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 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	John Kelly	Audubon Canyon Ranch	(415) 868-9214
E/T	Pt. Reyes NP Dispatch PRNS	US National Park Service, Pt. Reyes (NS), Ranger	(415) 464-5170

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-174 -A Site Strategy - White Gulch

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin County Marin

NOAA CHART

Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643

2-174 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 8 12

122 57

Last Page Update : 7/1/2005

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Considerable impact is possible to the extensive wetland around White Gulch and the eelgrass beds just offshore in the tidal areas. 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 inside bay.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-174.1 Objective: Exclusion booming to prevent oil contamination to wetlands within White Gulch.

Deploy 2000 feet of 4X4 boom within White Gulch in two layers. Tidal currents are aggressive at mouth of Gulch. Set booms inside of Gulch, out of current. Boom should be set approximately halfway into Gulch. Anchor each boom end as close as possible to cliff face. Leave a trailing boom length on both sides for a tidal seal.

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 No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-174.1	0	2000	0	0	4 4x22lbdanforth	1	2	0	0	6	

LOGISTICS

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

Hwy 1 to Tomales Bay. This site is accessible only by water from launch ramps at Miller Park, Inverness, or Lawson's Landing. Small bay on west shore of Tomales Bay within Philip Burton Wilderness of Point Reyes National Seashore. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

LAND ACCESS: Unknown, but doubtful.

WATER LOGISTICS: Shallow water inside bay

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Nearest launch ramps at Nicks Cove, Lawson's Landing and Inverness.

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

Staging at Nicks Cove or Lawson's Landing which also includes some facilities.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

