

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

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

Latitude N
 38 11
 Longitude W
 122 56

Last Page Update : 7/1/2005

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Pelican Point is a sand spit and shallow water sandbar which extends into the bay from the steep Tomales headlands just south of Hog Island. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. It is a sandy point where the strong influent currents of Tomales Bay abruptly fade resulting in deposit of a sand point and bar which extends well into the bay. The south side of the point is an elongated fine grain sand beach. Waters are deep both before and after the point and collection eddies form behind (south) of the point. The point is a favored resting area for sea birds including brown pelicans and as many as 50 or more pelicans may loaf there. This site is also of cultural interest and has been used extensively in the ancient past has extensive native American midden deposits. Pelican Pt is within the Philip Burton Wilderness of Point Reyes National Seashore.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

"B" priority site due to its importance as a roosting area for brown pelicans and shorebirds during the winter.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Pelican Point is a low sandy point where the strong influent currents of Tomales Bay abruptly fade resulting in deposit of a sand point and bar which extends well into the bay. Waters are deep both before and after the point and collection eddies form behind (south) of the point, where there is some marshy habitat present, both freshwater and saltwater vegetation, and transition into upland habitats of Tomales headland.

The sensitivity of this location is derived from the sea and shore birds which favored the spit as a resting area. During the winter this site is heavily used as a roost site for brown pelicans (as many as 50) and other marine birds as a casual resting area.

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
T	24hr Sanctuary Personnel	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 479-5311
E/T	Pt. Reyes NP Dispatch PRNS	US National Park Service, Pt. Reyes (NS), Ranger	(415) 464-5170

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-177 -B Site Strategy - Pelican Point

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin County Marin

NOAA CHART

Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643

2-177 -B

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Oil at this site may contaminate pelicans and shorebirds using 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:

There are extreme shallows at the tip of the point all the way to the channel marker.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-177.1 Objective: Haze birds away from point

Use passive hazing devices to keep birds off oiled shoreline: mylar tape, mylar balloons. (If this site is used for collection as indicated in 2-164.1, then hazing may not be necessary; refer to strategy for oil collection activity at this location.)

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
2-177.1	0	0		0	0	1	0	0	mylar tape, mylar balloons, stakes	2	

LOGISTICS

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

Take Hwy 1 to Tomales Bay. This site is accessible only by water. From the east shore there is launching at Nicks Cove, Marshall, Miller Park, or Lawson's Landing. From the west shore boat access is limited at Inverness and Sacramento Landing. Pelican Point is a sand spit and shallow water sandbar which extends into the bay from the steep Tomales headlands just south of Hog Island. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

LAND ACCESS: None; boat access only

WATER LOGISTICS: Shallow water around point

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Nearest launch ramps at Nicks Cove, Lawson's Landing and Inverness. There is a boat lift at Marshall

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:

