

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

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

Latitude N
 38 10
 Longitude W
 122 54

Last Page Update : 7/1/2002

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site is located on a 135 acre nature preserve owned by Audubon Canyon Ranch at Cypress Grove Point on the east shore of Tomales Bay. The northern saltwater marsh begins approximately 0.5 mile north of Cypress Grove Point and extends south along the east shore to about 2500' north of the Point. A freshwater/brackish marsh lies behind a railroad levee adjacent to the saltmarsh. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. This sensitive site encompasses both a saltwater and freshwater/brackish marsh. The saltwater marsh along the east shore of Tomales Bay is relatively narrow (<25 yards wide) and not extensive (<200 yds long). A large freshwater/brackish marsh lies behind a levee adjacent to the saltwater marsh. A breach in the levee which functions as a narrow tidal channel is covered by a foot bridge. A white Audubon research building is located just south of the foot bridge. A wooden bulkhead structure lies south of the marsh and adjacent to the white research building.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Aquaculture leases are nearby. Marshes are "A" priority year-round. Shorebirds present during fall and winter months. Waterfowl present during winter.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Freshwater, brackish and saltwater marsh can be found in Cypress Grove Preserve, making this site an "A" priority year-round. Special status bird, reptile, amphibian and plant species are found within the marshes at the site.

Multiple bird species use freshwater, brackish and saltwater marsh at this site. Several are special status bird species including: common yellowthroat which is present all year and common in the marshes of Tomales Bay; tri-colored blackbirds which used to nest in the freshwater marsh before the levee was breached; Northern Harriers which nest in and around the site during spring and summer months; and black rails which are expected at the site in the near future given their presence in nearby locations. Shorebirds are abundant along the shoreline and in the marshes during the fall and winter months. Waterfowl are also common in the nearshore waters during the winter.

A variety of fish and invertebrates utilize the mudflats and marshes throughout the year. Herring spawn in the eelgrass during the winter months (Nov-Feb) and viable eggs (Feb-Apr).. Dungeness crab use the bay as a nursery area to spawn and grow.

Special status Northcoast bird's-beak (*Cordylanthus maritimus palustris*) is found within the saltmarsh.

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 - Office of Historic Preservation (Eric Allison -(916) 653-9125), and the Northwest Information Center, (Leigh Jordan, Sonoma State College ((707) 664-0880)) 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		CA State Parks, Northern Comms Center (Dispatch)	(916) 358-0333
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:

2-179 -A Site Strategy - Cypress Grove Preserve

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin County Marin

NOAA CHART

Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643

2-179 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 8 10

122 54

Last Page Update : 7/1/2005

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

The concerns are oil and response activity impacts to wetlands, rare and endangered species, and other vulnerable plants and wildlife. The primary objective is to minimize oiling of marshes by booming. Other concerns are the impacts resulting from response activities such as trampling wetlands, disturbing sensitive plants and animals, and soft mudflats or tromping oil into the sediments which can cause long term oil injury to the environment.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Shallow tidal flats when approaching from the water.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-179.1 Objective: Exclude oil from entering tidal channel to freshwater marsh.

Deploy 200' of 6" exclusion boom in chevron configuration to protect tidal channel to freshwater/brackish marsh.

Strategy 2-179.2 Objective: Protect bayfront saltmarsh from oiling.

Deploy 600' of 6" exclusion boom along shoreline in front of saltmarsh area.

Strategy 2-179.3 Objective: Protection booming of wooden bulkhead structure adjacent to white research building from oiling. Divert oil from riprap on shore near footbridge.

Deploy 100' of 6" exclusion boom in shallow chevron configuration around wooden bulkhead structure. Deploy 200' of 6" exclusion boom in shallow chevron configuration around riprap area.

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
2-179.1	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
2-179.2	0	0	600	0	0		0	0	0				
2-179.3	0	0	300	0	0		0	0	0				

LOGISTICS

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

Hwy 1 to Tomales Bay. Site is on the east shore and access through a marked gate approximately 0.75 miles north of Marshall. The site is located on a 135 acre nature preserve owned by Audubon Canyon Ranch at Cypress Grove Point on the east shore of Tomales Bay. The northern saltwater marsh begins approximately 0.5 mile north of Cypress Grove Point and extends south along the east shore to about 2500' north of the Point. A freshwater/brackish marsh lies behind a railroad levee adjacent to the saltmarsh. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

LAND ACCESS: All vehicles

WATER LOGISTICS: Shallow water nearshore

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Boat ramps at Nicks Cove and Lawson's Landing
and Services Available:

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

Small amount of staging can be done on-site. A larger staging area would be at Nicks Cove.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

