

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

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

Latitude N  
 38 06  
 Longitude W  
 122 51

Last Page Update : 7/1/2002

#### SITE DESCRIPTION:

Site encompasses the east side of Tomales Bay from Bivalve to just north of Millerton Point, and includes the beach on the north side of the Point and the small wetland near Hwy 1, the saltmarsh on the south side of Millerton Point, and, further south, several pocket marshes between the railroad levee and Hwy 1 at mouth of Millerton Creek and three other unnamed drainages. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Both Millerton Point and Tomasini Point have similar geography: an elevated landmass protruding into the bay resulting in a prograding tidal marsh on the south side (down current). There is also a pocket of marsh at the forward edge of the peninsula near Hwy 1. The habitats that result are extensive tidal salt marshes and bayfront tidal mudflats and sheltered tidal mudflats extending in front of the marsh. Where drainages flow into the bay, delta marshes form; most of these are confined behind the remnants of the old railroad grade, the grade has openings which allow outflow and tidal exchange. The northern shore of the point is exposed to wave wash and erosion; beaches consist of mixed sand and gravel. There are oyster leases north of the Point. This site is part of Tomales Bay State Park.

#### SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

This site has "A" priority all year due to presence of listed species and tidal wetland habitat.

#### RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Tidal salt marsh and mudflat habitats are the principal concerns which determine the sensitivity of this site. Marshes support a rich species assemblage and the mudflats are important for invertebrate populations and as foraging habitat for birds and fish life. Oyster culture is an economic concern.

Several bird species of special concern are resident or casual visitors. The brown pelican occurs seasonally; California threatened species such as the California black rail, saltmarsh yellowthroat, and merlin are common in bay marshes. Osprey, nests at Millerton Point and nearby on a duck blind in the Bay. 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).

Relatively recently, the river otter has made a come-back in southern Tomales Bay after an absence for 85 years.

A variety of fish and invertebrates utilize the mudflats and marshes throughout the year. Dungeness crab use the bay as a nursery area to spawn and grow.

Salt marsh bird's-beak, a listed plant species, may be found in the upper tidal marsh region in some locales.

#### 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	Marin Distict	Cal State Parks, Marin District Dispatch	(707) 769-5665
E		CA State Parks, Northern Comms Center (Dispatch)	(916) 358-0333
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:

## 2-186 -A Site Strategy - Millerton Point

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin County Marin

NOAA CHART

Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643

## 2-186 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 8 06

122 51

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:

There is exceedingly shallow water and oyster beds nearshore. Telephone poles and lines may cross over site, posing an aerial hazard.

## SITE STRATEGIES

### Strategy 2-186.1 Objective: Exclude oil from entering marshes

There are a several tidal marshes along the length of this site. Each can be closed with short pieces of swamp boom (4X2 or greater) deployed in a chevron exclusion formation. Deployments must be made when tides are 2.5' or greater to permit adequate draft. It is recommended that deployment be scheduled for the incoming tide to avoid stranding. Contact local State Parks and oystermen to aid in locating deploy locations and navigating the exceedingly shallow waters. The following are a list of boom deployment locations from north to south.

- a) marsh mouth on unnamed drainage 0.75 miles north of Millerton - 100' boom, 1 anchor, 2 stakes
- b) marsh channel opening at SW tip of Millerton Pt - 200' boom, 3 anchors, 2 stakes, 200' oil snare inside boom
- c) marsh mouth on Millerton Creek Gulch just south of Millerton Pt - 200' boom, 1 anchor, 4 stakes
- d) marsh mouth on unnamed drainage 0.5 miles south of Millerton - 100' boom, 1 anchor, 2 stakes
- e) marsh mouth on unnamed drainage 0.75 miles south of Millerton - 100' boom, 1 anchor, 2 stakes
- f) marsh mouth on unnamed drainage 1.2 miles south of Millerton - 100' boom, 1 anchor, 2 stakes

### Strategy 2-186.2 Objective: Exclusion Protection of shoreline from Millerton Pt to Tomasini Pt. Also excludes oil from large areas of oyster production.

To keep oil from moving near or onto the shoreline, deploy 2500' of swamp boom (4x2 or larger) from Tomasini Pt to Millerton Pt. Anchor up on shore. Contact local oystermen for aids and direction in navigating these extreme shallows.

### Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no tvoe and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-186.1	0	800	200 sna	0	24 8/12+##danforths & 16 stakes	0	3	0	very shallow draft skiffs & 16 stakes	6	
2-186.2	0	2500		0	6 6 danforths with chain and stakes	1	1	0	stakes and shallow draft boats	5	

## LOGISTICS

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

Hwy 1 to the eastside shore of Tomales Bay. Approximately 5 miles north of Pt. Reyes Station. Site encompasses the east side of Tomales Bay from Bivalve to just north of Millerton Point, and includes the beach on the north side of the Point and the small wetland near Hwy 1, the saltmarsh on the south side of Millerton Point, and, further south, several pocket marshes between the railroad levee and Hwy 1 at mouth of Millerton Creek and three other unnamed drainages. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

**LAND ACCESS:** large truck to parking area above site

**WATER LOGISTICS:** shallow near site

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Nearest launch ramps at Inverness. Also Nicks Cove, Marconi, and beach launch at Millerton.

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

Small staging area in unpaved parking lot above site.

### COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

### ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

