

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

Thomas Guide Location

Marin County

Latitude N

3 8 06

Longitude W

122 51

NOAA Chart: **Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643**

Last Page Update : 7/1/2002

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is at the extreme southwesterly margin of Tomales Bay and extends from the State Park Boundary north of Teachers Beach about 1 mile south to southern edge of Inverness. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. The bay margin is very shallow in this area and has a wide band of tidal salt marsh and mudflats. Mudflats become very wide in the southern half of the site. The marshes and a portion of the mudflats are within the Point Reyes National Seashore. Most of the land adjacent to this site is private property and the town of Inverness is in the northern half. Sir Francis Drake Highway parallels the shoreline for most of the length of this site. Ownerships here are scattered between private and public.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

This is an "A" priority due to the extensive tidal marsh and the presence of sensitive plant and animal species.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The margin of the bay has a belt of tidal saltmarsh and wide mudflats and is habitat variety of fish and invertebrates throughout the year. The bay margin, marsh, mudflats and eelgrass beds also serves as a nursery area for many species of fish and invertebrates is foraging habitat for fish and birds.

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, salt marsh yellowthroat, and merlin are common in bay marshes. 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.

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

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.

Salt marsh bird's-beak, a listed plant species, may be found in the upper tidal marsh region. This species and the marshy margin are the prime consideration in setting the sensitivity of 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 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
B	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:

2-188 -A Site Strategy - Inverness

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin County Marin County

NOAA CHART

Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643

2-188 -A

Latitude N

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

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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:

Extensive mudflats and shallow water front this site.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-188.1 Objective: Protective booming of marshfront where endangered plant occurs.

To prevent oil from threatening endangered plant or its habitat, deploy 1500' of swamp boom (4X2 or greater) from the Yacht club south along the marsh margin. Use anchors and stakes to position the boom. Run boom ends to shore to stop oil from getting around the boom. Deploy from very shallow draft work boats (contact oystermen) when tide is in.

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
2-188.1	0	1500		0	8 anchors and stakes	0	1	0	very shallow water skiff	2	

LOGISTICS

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

Hwy 1 to Point Reyes Station near the head of Tomales Bay. Proceed westward on Sir Francis Drake to Inverness. This site is at the extreme southwesterly margin of Tomales Bay and extends from the State Park Boundary north of Teachers Beach about 1 mile south to southern edge of Inverness. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

LAND ACCESS: Large trucks of shoreline businesses.

WATER LOGISTICS: Extremely shallow water

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Nearest launch ramps at Inverness. Launch also at Nicks Cove and Marconi. Gasoline at Inverness.

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

Small staging areas may be available at several of the hotels and marina along the Inverness shoreline.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

