

County: **Marin County**USGS Quad: **7.5" Quad: Drakes Bay, CA**

Thomas Guide Location

Marin County

Latitude N

3 8 07

Longitude W

122 57

NOAA Chart: **18640 / Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643**

Last Page Update : 1/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Located within Pt. Reyes National Seashore on the northwest side, this beach is about 12 miles long. Beach extends from Point Reyes Headland to Kehoe Beach. Abbott's Lagoon outlets at the northern third of the beach. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. A northwesterly facing beach with medium to coarse sand, moderate slope, and very aggressive surf. The back beach rises as vegetated dunes or steep bluffs. The upper beach is littered with driftwood and debris. AKA "The Great Beach."

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

"A" priority all year. Most sensitive during November through June during bird nesting and seal haulout and pupping periods. Western snowy plovers may nest anywhere along the upper beach. The most southerly mile of beach is used by northern elephant Seals as a pupping and haulout area.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Extensive beaches and broad vegetated sand dunes are habitats found at this site. Most sensitive November-June.

The threatened western snowy plover may use the entire beach area throughout the year, and nest during spring and summer months in upper beach regions. Shorebirds are present throughout the year but most abundant during the fall and winter months (Oct-Apr). Several raptors, such as peregrine falcons, red-tail hawks, osprey, and white-tailed kite forage over the beach and dune habitats. Turkey vultures and ravens are abundant and scavenge sick and dead wildlife from throughout the site.

Northern Elephant seals haulout and pup at the south end of the beach near the headland (South Beach parking lot to the headland) from November through July. Large mammals such as fox, coyote, raccoon, and deer are common at the site.

A variety of dune plants, including threatened and endangered species, occur in the sand dunes.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

This is a culturally sensitive area. 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
E/T	24hr Sanctuary Personnel	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 479-5311
O	Main Office	Point Blue Conservation Science	(707) 781-2555
O	Jonathan Bishop Oil Spill Prgm Coord.	CA Coastal Commission	(415) 904-5247
O	Alison Detmer	CA Coastal Commission	(415) 904-5205
E/T	Pt. Reyes NP Dispatch PRNS	US National Park Service, Pt. Reyes (NS), Ranger	(415) 464-5170

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-198 -A Site Strategy - Point Reyes Beach

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin County Marin County

NOAA CHART

18640 / Bodega and Tomales Bays 18643

2-198 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 8 07

122 57

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

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 exposure of oil to the site and natural resources present at the site. Other concerns are the impacts resulting from response activities. Avoid trampling wetlands, sand dunes, sensitive plants and animals causing penetration of oil into the sediments and further injury to the environment.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Narrow roads, Large surf and swell

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-198.1 Objective: Prevent oiling of snowy plover and elephant seal use areas. Prevent injury to sand dunes from cleanup activities.

This site is difficult to protect as is most of the outer coast. Mechanical shoreline protection techniques are not likely to be effective because of high wave energy conditions at this site.

- a) Recommended response strategy is on-water containment and recovery.
- b) Pursue feasibility of alternative response technologies (e.g. dispersants and in-situ burning) to reduce the volume of oil reaching the site.
- c) If suitable conditions exist, deflect oil away from the south end of the beach which is used by seals.
- d) The beach may be suitable as an oil collection site, but there is no indication that the oil will hold on the beach once it strands. The southerly quarter is not desirable for collection due to the proximity of seals. For details, contact Pt. Reyes National Park resource specialists.
- e) Conduct beach pre-cleaning during plover nesting season only with advice and consent of DFG and USFWS. Also contact Pt. Reyes National Park resource specialists.
- f) Use manual recovery methods in most situations. For very heavy oiling conditions, consider front-end loaders.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	tvpe and dear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or comment and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-198.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	On-water Recovery / ART		

LOGISTICS

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

From San Francisco take Hwy 101 North to Sir Francis Drake Blvd., west to Olema. Turn north (right) on Hwy 1, go 2 miles and take a left on Sir Francis Drake Blvd through Inverness. Several access points to the beach are possible. Take Pierce Point Road to access McClure's Beach, Kehoe Beach, or Abbott's Lagoon. Continue on Sir Francis Drake to access the North and South Beach parking areas. Located within Pt. Reyes National Seashore on the northwest side, this beach is about 12 miles long. Beach extends from Point Reyes Headland to Kehoe Beach. Abbott's Lagoon outlets at the northern third of the beach. Site lies within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

LAND ACCESS: Large truck okay

WATER LOGISTICS: large surf and swell common; steep beach

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Nearest boat ramp at Lawson's Landing in Tomales Bay, other ramps in Bodega Bay.

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

No facilities. Staging at parking areas.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: Coordination with the National Park Service to establish access routes.

