

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

Thomas Guide Location
 Marin County
 NOAA Chart: **18647**

Latitude N Longitude W
 38 02 122 55

Last Page Update : 1/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Located within Pt. Reyes National Seashore and Estero de Limantour Reserve. The south spit of Limantour Estero is approximately 2.5 miles long and designated as a Wilderness Area. Site also includes the eastern stretch of beach from the parking area to the cliffs. This site is contiguous with site 2-205-A, Drakes Estero. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area: Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. A dynamic medium-grained sand beach backed by vegetated sand dunes.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

"A" priority all year. Western snowy plover present year round but nest March-August. Significant harbor seal pupping area (peak March-June). A designated Wilderness Area.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Extensive sand beach and sand dune habitats at risk all year.

Western snowy plover (ca. 140 in 1997) nesting (on high beach and foredune area) and foraging area. High usage area by over-wintering and migrating shorebirds. A wide variety of raptors, including peregrine falcons, red-tail hawks, osprey, and white-tailed kites forage throughout the esteros and surrounding wetlands. Other birds such as turkey vultures and ravens are abundant and at risk from eating dead oiled birds.

Significant Harbor seal breeding, pupping and haulout area (20% of the state population in 1989; 1300-1500 individuals in summer 1991) located in the Esteros and on sand spits at the entrance (peak March-June). Large mammals such as fox, coyote, raccoon, and deer are common at the site.

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
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
T	Becky Ota Marine Conservation MGR	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
T	Pt. Reyes NP Dispatch PRNS	US National Park Service, Pt. Reyes (NS), Ranger	(415) 464-5170
T	Steve Wertz Senior Env.Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-207 -A Site Strategy - Limantour Spit

County and Thomas Guide Location
Marin County Marin County

NOAA CHART
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2-207 -A

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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 the exposure of oil to plants, animals and habitats present at this site. Other concerns are the impacts resulting from response activities. Avoid trampling sand dunes, sensitive plants and animals causing penetration of oil into the sediments and further injury to the environment. Avoid low flying aircraft/helicopters (<1000 ft) over marine mammal haulout areas.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Large swell and surf common along this shoreline.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-207.1 Objective: Prevent oiling on beach, especially west end from parking area to the estero mouth.

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.

- Recommended response strategy is on-water containment and recovery.
- Pursue feasibility of alternative response technologies (e.g. dispersants and in-situ burning) to reduce the volume of oil reaching the site.
- Manual recovery is the likely cleanup method, however heavy equipment (e.g. graders, front-end loaders, bobcats) may be useful for cleaning this sand beach.
- Access to the west beach portion of this site is restricted to vehicular traffic due to the presence of the threatened western snowy plover and this site's designation as a Wilderness Area. Snowy plovers nest on the foredune above the high tide line March through August. All traffic must be kept out of the area from the high tide line to the top of the dunes during nesting season. Contact Point Reyes National Seashore Resource Specialists for entry.

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
2-207.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	front-end loader, grader		

LOGISTICS

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

From Highway 101 in San Rafael, take Sir Francis Drake Blvd to Hwy 1 at Olema. Turn right (north) and go 2 miles, turn left (west) on Sir Francis Drake, take the first left onto Bear Valley Road, then right on Limantour Road, proceed to the end of the road. Located within Pt. Reyes National Seashore and Estero de Limantour Reserve. The south spit of Limantour Estero is approximately 2.5 miles long and designated as a Wilderness Area. Site also includes the eastern stretch of beach from the parking area to the cliffs. This site is contiguous with site 2-205-A, Drakes Estero. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area: Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

LAND ACCESS: Large truck to parking lot. Foot or ATV on beach.

WATER LOGISTICS: Access to shoreline restricted due to bird nesting
Limitations: depth, obstruction
Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Nearest small boat ramp at Lifeboat Station on Pt. Reyes Headland.

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

Staging at Limantour Beach parking lot.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: Strategy has not been deployed or tested.

