

County: **San Mateo**  
 USGS Quad: **Montara Mountain**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N  
3 7 30  
 Longitude W  
122 30

NOAA Chart: **18645,18680 Gulf of Farallons, Sur-SF**

Last Page Update : 1/1/2000

#### SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes the shoreline from Seal Cove south to James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve to Pillar Point beginning at a point about 100 yards north of the parking area to the south foot of Pillar Point. The area is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Site lies within both Montara State Marine Reserve and James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. Site is associated with BLM Ca Coastal National Monument resources. This entire site is wave cut rock platforms backed by mixed sand and gravel beaches at the toe of sharply rising cliffs. It overlies most of the James Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (San Mateo County ownership). The biota are those typical of wave cut platform environments. This area is very important as a scientific study site: decades of study have been done at this site and many type species come from this locale. This site receives thousands of student visitors every year as well as being a favorite stopping point for beach visitors. San Vicente Creek drops precipitously to the beach level at the parking area. The Reserve office is at the parking area at the end of California Avenue.

#### SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

B priority year round.

#### RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve includes extensive tide pools and surfgrass. The wave-cut platform tide pools have provided very important scientific and educational benefits for decades. The coarse grained beaches and rocky exposures provide habitat for birds and pinnipeds as well as the diverse intertidal fauna.

The beaches and cliffs rising steeply above provide resting, roosting and nesting for gulls, common murre, and black crowned night herons.

Harbor seals haul-out here: as many as 500-600 harbor seals at haulout.

Richly diverse rocky intertidal and tide pool fauna are found here including the endangered black abalone. Many type specimens were collected here.

Surf grass and algae populate the rocky platforms.

#### CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

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	San Mateo Coast Sector	CA State Parks	(650) 726-8819
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	Jonathan Bishop Oil Spill Prgm Coord.	CA Coastal Commission	(415) 904-5247
O	Alison Detmer	CA Coastal Commission	(415) 904-5205
ELBCT	Office Fitzgerald Marine Reserv	Fitzgerald Marine Reserve	(650) 728-3584
T	David Ledig	BLM Ca Coastal Monument	(831) 630-5006
T	Becky Ota Marine Conservation MGR	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
T	James Weigand	BLM Ca Coastal Monument	(916) 978-4656
T	Steve Wertz Senior Env.Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

#### ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

## 2-260 -B Site Strategy - Seal Cove to Pillar Point

County and Thomas Guide Location

San Mateo

NOAA CHART

18645,18680 Gulf of Farallons, Sur-SF

## 2-260 -B

Latitude N

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### CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update : 7/1/2005

The main concern is oil and cleanup impacts on tidepool and intertidal community which would damage the sealife and scientific continuity of this site. Coarse grain beaches are vulnerable to burial/penetration. Oil on seal haulout areas would threaten seals. Cleanup could be as damaging as oil. Best response is to deal with oil before it comes to shore.

### HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Steep cliffs and rocky beaches are perpetual slip, trip and fall hazards. Aggressive surf also poses hazards to beach traffic.

### SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-260.1 Objective: offshore containment and recovery activities to minimize or avert oil from impacting shoreline habitats and wildlife

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 and/or rocky 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.

### 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
2-260.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			ART & On-Water Skimming		

### LOGISTICS

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

In Moss Beach, turn off Hwy 1 toward beach at California Ave (at sign to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve) and right again at North Lake. Moss Beach access / Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is at end of street. There are two other access points: at Cypress Ave in Moss Beach; and through Pillar Point Harbor: take Capistrano Rd. to Prospect Way, left on Broadway, right on Princeton and right on West Point Ave. This site includes the shoreline from Seal Cove south to James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve to Pillar Point beginning at a point about 100 yards north of the parking area to the south foot of Pillar Point. The area is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Site lies within both Montara State Marine Reserve and James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. Site is associated with BLM Ca Coastal National Monument resources.

**LAND ACCESS:** limited access points. Limited to foot and 4WD

**WATER LOGISTICS:** waves and rock outcrops

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking launch from Pillar Point Harbor

and Services Available:

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

Best staging, equipment and services are available at Pillar Pt. Harbor and airport. Local staging may best be located at James Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Office parking lot or the new parking lot at the end of Cypress Avenue.

### COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:** James Fitzgerald Marine Reserve parking lot.

