

County: **San Mateo**
 USGS Quad: **Half Moon Bay**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 7 28

122 27

NOAA Chart: **18680 Point Sur to San Francisco Bay**

Last Page Update : 1/1/2000

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site extends from Pillar Point Harbor south to Miramontes Point. Frenchman's Creek is approx 3000 ft north of Pilarcitos Creek. The area is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Most of this four miles of beaches is in Half Moon Bay State Beach and includes Naples, Dunes, Venice, Elmar, and Francis State Beaches and city beaches south to Miramontes Point. Beaches vary from medium to fine grained and are backed, for the most part, by dunes or low cliffs, but also some residences. There are two creeks, Pilarcitos and Frenchman's Creeks, outletting here. Pilarcitos Creek sometimes ponds behind the sand dunes/beach, and can flow nearly ½ mile north to join Frenchman's Creek before entering the sea.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

This site has A-priority from February through September because of western snowy plover nesting. The remainder of the year it is C-priority because of smelt spawning.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The habitats here are medium grained beaches, sand dunes, and coastal creek mouths. Upper beach is habitat for snowy plover. The creek mouths and lagoons can vary dramatically from year to year. Pilarcitos Creek Lagoon in it's present morphology is one of the most well developed lagoons on the San Mateo Coast. It has developed between the sand dunes/beach and the cliffs extending nearly ½ of a mile from where it emerges from the riparian vegetation to the mouth of Frenchmans creek where the two creeks join and flow across the beach.

Western snowy plover winter in the area, and have nested in the back beach/low dune zone. Nesting season is typically from March through August, primarily in the area of Francis State Beach. Enclosures and volunteer watchers are deployed to enhance nesting success.

These beaches are used smelt for spawning. Night and day smelt spawn in dense aggregations in the beach surf zones from February through July. Surf smelt spawn May through August. Steelhead are present Nov-May.

Pilarcitos Creek and Frenchmans Creek include fringing wetlands and riparian areas..

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

There are probably historic and cultural sites present. 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	Santa Cruz District	CA State Parks	(831) 335-6390
T	24hr Sanctuary Personnel	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 479-5311
E	San Mateo Coast Sector	CA State Parks	(650) 726-8819
E		CA State Parks, Northern Comms Center (Dispatch)	(916) 358-0333
O	Jonathan Bishop Oil Spill Prgm Coord.	CA Coastal Commission	(415) 904-5247
O	Alison Detmer	CA Coastal Commission	(415) 904-5205

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-264 -A/C Site Strategy - Halfmoon Bay Beaches: Naples to S. Miramontes Pt.

2-264 -A/C

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

Primary concern is disturbance of snowy plover nesting and foraging on the highest portion of the beach: stay on the lower beach below the debris line. Also, there is concern about impacts to marsh plants and animals in Pilarcitos Creek. Smelt spawn in the low surf zone. Avoid disturbing the vegetation on dunes and, particularly the high back beach zone where plovers nest.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Waves on steep beaches and crumbling sandy dune faces are hazards.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-264.1 Objective: Exclude/deflect oil in Pilarcitos Creek inlet and lagoon

Deflection booms to divert oil onto the landward side of the southern vegetated portions of the spit. Be cautious of endangered snowy plover nests on adjacent low dune. Stake boom in diagonals to deflect oil to grounding and collection on shorelines. Proceed only with State Park staff assistance. Beware that endangered Snowy Plovers nest and frequent the high part and back part of the beach.

Strategy 2-264.2 Objective: Exclude oil with sediment dike when heavy oil impacts are anticipated

Construct a sediment dike with flow-through culvert or pipe siphon over dike across creek (either Pilarcitos and/or Frenchman's Creeks as necessary). This requires on-site evaluation to determine if 1) surf conditions will permit activity and success, 2) there is adequate sand, and 3) activities will not threaten nearby snow plover. Proceed only with State Park Staff assistance.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	tvpe and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-264.1	0	1000		1000		anchors and stakes						6	
2-264.2	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	bulldozer and culvert	2	

LOGISTICS

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

There are several access points to the beach. Main access is through Half Moon Bay State Park entrance. From intersection of Hwy 92, take Hwy 1 South to first light and turn toward beach. Park Hq is left of kiosk. The mouth of Frenchmans Creek and Pilarcitos creek lagoon can be accessed by traveling north on Highway 1 from the intersection with Highway 92 and turning left on Venice Blvd. The site extends from Pillar Point Harbor south to Miramontes Point. Frenchman's Creek is approx 3000 ft north of Pilarcitos Creek. The area is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

LAND ACCESS: There is beach access via State Parks for ATV & 4WD

WATER LOGISTICS: no known obstructions

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking 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 Half Moon Bay Airport. Local staging at State Parks Parking lots at Venice Blvd or Kelly.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

