

2-271 -A/C Site Summary- Mussel Rock to San Gregorio Beach

2-271 -A/C

County: **San Mateo**
USGS Quad: **San Gregorio**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N
3 7 20

Longitude W
122 24

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

Last Page Update : 1/1/2000

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Site is the beach from of San Gregorio Creek (site 273) 1.5 miles north to a bounding rock headland (Mussel Rock). The area is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. San Gregorio Beach is under State Parks Management. The beach is very broad, up to 150 yards wide, with an extensive back beach, except at San Gregorio Creek where the cliffs are near the sea. At San Gregorio Creek the waves come to the cliff base at high tide but is drivable at low tide. The entire beach is backed with steep cliffs. Sand grain varies from medium to coarse with corresponding variation in beach slope and scallop. The back beach is littered with tree trunks and other debris. The beach is remote and is a favorite place of walkers and sunbathers seeking solitude. There is a single private access (4WD) at midbeach granting landowners access to their portion of the back beach.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Site is A-priority February through August because of intense smelt spawning activity; C-priority the remainder of the year.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The low beach is important smelt spawning habitat. The high back beach is snowy plover habitat.

In addition to western snowy plover nesting, a variety of shore birds forage here. Both sea birds and riparian birds use these areas for foraging and nesting.

Smelt spawn here in dense aggregations in the surf zone: Feb- July (night Smelt) and May - Aug. (surf Smelt)

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
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

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-271 -A/C Site Strategy - Mussel Rock to San Gregorio Beach

County and Thomas Guide Location

San Mateo

NOAA CHART

18680 Point Sur to San Francisco Bay

2-271 -A/C

Latitude N

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Longitude W

122 24

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update : 7/1/2005

The prime concern is oil penetration or burial on the beach which is a threat to smelt eggs buried in the surf zone of the beach. There may also be endangered western snowy plovers in the debris line and the back beach. Contact ecologists to establish traffic corridors before putting vehicles on the beach.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Portions of the beach are covered at high tide. Aggressive surf and rock falling from cliffs are main hazards.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-271.1 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 and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-271.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		ART & On-Water Skimming	0	

LOGISTICS

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

Site is about 12 miles south of Half Moon Bay on Hwy 1: access from San Gregorio Creek State Beach pullout (contact State Parks for vehicle access to beach): beach is drivable with 4WD and passable during low low tides. Other access may be available through private ownerships. Site is the beach from of San Gregorio Creek (site 273) 1.5 miles north to a bounding rock headland (Mussel Rock). The area is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. San Gregorio Beach is under State Parks Management.

LAND ACCESS: 4WD/ATV access at low tide at San Gregorio parking lot -DPR permission

WATER LOGISTICS: none known

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: nearest launch/support is Pillar Pt Harbor. Possible beach launching from Martins Beach in optimal conditions

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

San Gregorio State Park parking lot. Tarmac, water and bathrooms only.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: Communications from on the beach is impeded by steep and high cliffs which can block reception.

