

2-275 -A/C Site Summary- San Mateo Coast State Beaches

2-275 -A/C

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

Thomas Guide Location
AAA San Mateo C
NOAA Chart: **Pt Sur - S Francisco**

Latitude N
3 7 17
Longitude W
122 24

Last Page Update : 1/1/2000

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is four miles of fine to medium-grained sand beaches bounded by San Gregorio Creek on the north and Pescadero Creek on the south. State Parks Manages all three Parks. The area is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. It includes San Gregorio, Pomponio, and Pescadero State Beaches within the San Mateo Coast State Beach system. In general, these beaches have low steep bluffs backing the beach. There are many access points.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Feb. - Aug. this site is an "A" priority habitat for smelt spawning. Sep. - Jan. this site is a "C" priority.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

These fine to medium-grained beaches are spawning habitat for smelt and foraging and resting habitat for birds.

Snowy plovers are located on these beaches.

Night and surf (day) smelt spawn in dense aggregations in the surf zone of these beaches from Feb. - Jul. (night smelt), and May - Aug. (surf smelt).

The endangered black abalone is found offshore.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Ohlone cultural sites are nearby. 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
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:

2-275 -A/C Site Strategy - San Mateo Coast State Beaches

County and Thomas Guide Location

AAA San Mateo C San Mateo

NOAA CHART

Pt Sur - S Francisco

2-275 -A/C

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 7 17

122 24

Last Page Update : 7/1/2005

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Oil on the beach may cause smelt eggs to fail to hatch or deformities in the larvae. Responders should avoid traffic above the last high tide swash to minimize impacts to snowy plovers.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

The surf occasionally washes people and equipment out to sea. The rising tide can trap people and equipment on isolated beaches. The eroding cliff face is unstable, do not stand on the edge of the cliff, and when on the beach beware of falling rocks.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-275.1 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 twe and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-275.1	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0			

LOGISTICS

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

Take Hwy 92 to Halfmoon Bay. Continue south onto Hwy 1 about 15 miles. Turn into parking lot at Pomponio Creek. This site is four miles of fine to medium-grained sand beaches bounded by San Gregorio Creek on the north and Pescadero Creek on the south. State Parks Manages all three Parks. The area is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

LAND ACCESS: 4WD vehicles with high floatation tires may be able to travel on beach

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Nearest boat facilities are in Half Moon Bay, fifteen miles to the north
and Services Available:

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

The San Gregorio State Park parking lot is suitable for a small staging area or field post. A highway 1 pull-out on a hill to the south provides better communications, and the Half Moon Bay airport is suitable for a large staging area. San Mateo County OES can identify an appropriate command post.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: Communications are spotty in this part of the coast.

