

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

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

Latitude N
 37 16
 Longitude W
 122 24

Last Page Update : 1/1/2000

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site includes the creek mouth from the surf upstream to the marsh. This is a State Park. The area is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Site is associated with BLM Ca Coastal National Monument resources. Pescadero marsh is the largest marsh system on this part of the coast. The mouth is wide (ca. 300 ft) across the medium grained sand beach. The creek mouth is either open or susceptible to waves washing over the berm at high tide and into the lagoon most of the year. There is a large lagoon inland of the Highway 1 bridge.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Year round "A" priority resources at risk are several threatened and endangered species, and the marshes within the creek and lagoon drainage. Nov. - May Steelhead and Coho (silver) Salmon migrate through the creek. During the winter months waterfowl are abundant.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Several threatened, endangered, or proposed listed species are present within the creek and marsh, such as the tidewater goby, San Francisco garter snake, saltmarsh common yellowthroat, red-legged frog, and the California brackish water snail. Steelhead migrate upstream from Nov. - Jan., while downstream migrants use the creek from Feb. - May, and smolts are present year round. Waterfowl and wading birds are also abundant in the creek and marsh system. The Pescadero Marsh system is an important resting and feeding area for migratory birds using the Pacific flyway.

San Francisco garter snake, saltmarsh common yellowthroat, red-legged frog, and the California brackish water snail are known to occur onsite.

The endangered Tidewater Goby exists within the lagoon & Steelhead & Coho Salmon migrate upstream from Nov. - Jan., while downstream migrants use the creek from Feb. - May, and smolts are present year round.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Ohlone cultural sites 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
E	Santa Cruz District	CA State Parks	(831) 335-6390
E	San Mateo Coast Sector	CA State Parks	(650) 726-8819
T	24hr Sanctuary Personnel	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 479-5311
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
T	David Ledig	BLM Ca Coastal Monument	(831) 630-5006
T	James Weigand	BLM Ca Coastal Monument	(916) 978-4656

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-280 -A Site Strategy - Pescadero Marsh

County and Thomas Guide Location

AAA San Mateo C San Mateo

NOAA CHART

Pt Sur - S Francisco

2-280 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 7 16

122 24

Last Page Update : 7/1/2005

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Several threatened, endangered, or proposed listed species are present within the creek and marsh, such as the tidewater goby, San Francisco garter snake, saltmarsh common yellowthroat, red-legged frog, and the California brackish water snail. Steelhead Trout migrate upstream from Nov. - Jan., while downstream migrants use the creek from Feb. - May, and smolts are present year round. Waterfowl and wading birds are also abundant in the creek and marsh system. The Pescadero Marsh system is an important resting and feeding area for migratory birds using the Pacific flyway.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

The heavy surf occasionally washes people and equipment out to sea.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-280.1 Objective: Exclude oil from entering the mouth of the creek. If oil does enter the creek, prevent it from reaching the wetland vegetation.

Flood currents could be fairly strong during spring tides. The shape of the creek mouth changes often. Responders may have to design a strategy suited to the conditions they find.

Under ideal conditions, it may be possible to close off the inlet with a sediment dike (medium-grained sand) about 500 feet long. There appears to be an abundant sand supply to the north. However, waves are typically quite large and storm waves would breach the dike. It could also wash out during periods of high run-off. If dike fails, there is a sandy-shoreline catchment area located on the north shore of the ponded water.

Strategy 2-280.2 Objective: Exclude oil from entering the mouth of the creek. If oil does enter the creek, prevent it from reaching the wetland vegetation.

If a dike is not possible consider the following:

b) Deploy 600 feet of swamp boom from the rocky headland on the south side of the creek mouth to the northern bridge footing to deflect oil to the sandy beach there during the flood tide, and another 600 feet of swamp boom from the southern bridge footing to the sandy beach on the north shore of the creek 300 feet upstream from the bridge. Oil could be stranded and collected here. Divert oil to two locations: 1) sandy shoreline (north shore), both seaward and inland of the highway 1 bridge (logs and other debris would have to be removed), and 2) 50ft of Oil Snare (OS) and/or 100ft of sorbent boom to collect the oil that may accumulate.

Strategy 2-280.3 Objective: Oil Recovery by skimming

If oil accumulates in skimmable quantities, deploy skimmer in open water to southeast of bridge. Consult with IC prior to initiation of strategy.

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	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-280.1	0	4000	50 OS	400	40	40	0	1				10	
2-280.2	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	1 shallow	0			
2-280.3	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.)

From Hwy 92 at Halfmoon Bay, continue south on Hwy 1 to Pescadero Beach (approximately 20 miles). The area is part of San Mateo Coast State Beach System. The site includes the creek mouth from the surf upstream to the marsh. This is a State Park. The area is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Site is associated with BLM Ca Coastal National Monument resources.

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

WATER LOGISTICS: None noted.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Boats must be small enough to carry across beach. Nearest boat facilities are in Half Moon Bay, twenty miles to the north

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

There is a small dirt parking lot seaward of highway 1 on the south side of the creek mouth. This parking lot may be suitable for a small staging area or field post. 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: No communications problems reported at this location

