

2-307 -C/A Site Summary- Alameda Eelgrass Beds

2-307 -C/A

County: **Alameda**
USGS Quad: **Oakland West**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N
3 7 45
Longitude W
122 16

NOAA Chart: **18649/18650 Entrance to SF Bay**

Last Page Update : 10/1/2002

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The Eelgrass bed extends from near the entrance to Ballena Bay to the southerly extension of Park Street in Alameda. The eelgrass beds south of the island of Alameda total about 30 acres. The densest portion of the bed is near Ballena Bay and becomes more sparse along a sand bar running to the east about 150 yards off shore. The beds are in 8 to 10 feet of water and would not necessarily be exposed to oil on all low low tides.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

This eelgrass bed has A-level protection priority when exposed. Herring spawning in eelgrass November through April.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Oil readily sticks to eelgrass. The beds are an important spawning substrate for herring from November through April, and eelgrass is the sole food source for black brant during this time.

Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary is located at the southeast end of Crown Beach on Alameda, west of the Alameda-Bay Farm Island Bridge. The endangered California clapper rail breeds here. Brown pelicans and least terns forage here.

Herring spawn in the eelgrass during the winter months (Nov-Feb) and viable eggs (Feb-Apr).

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/T	Crown Beach Park Supervisor	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 544-3171
E	EBRPD Dispatch EBRP	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 881-1833
E/T	Susan Euing Biologist	US Fish & Wildlife Service	(510) 377-5928

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-307 -C/A Site Strategy - Alameda Eelgrass Beds

County and Thomas Guide Location

Alameda

NOAA CHART

18649/18650 Entrance to SF Bay

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

The concern is that oil will readily stick to any eelgrass blades which come in contact with the oil. The oil is disruptive to the eelgrass and would be damaging to any herring eggs spawned during the herring spawning season November to April. The strategy is to deflect the oil past this area to currents leading to collection setup to the east in San Leandro Channel.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Water is relatively shallow.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-307.1 Objective: Assess need for protective booming: Eelgrass is only vulnerable at very low tides when eelgrass tops are exposed to floating oil.

Biological staff must assess this site to determine if eelgrass is at risk. Because this bed is fairly deep, eelgrass tops are rarely, if ever, exposed to floating oil, and then only at very low tides. Oil readily sticks to floating eelgrass tops, and once eelgrass gets fouled with oil, oil becomes a subsurface threat to fish and other organisms which thrive in this cover. Scientific staff must review tidal information to see if minus tides less than - 0.5 may result in eelgrass exposure, and must conduct on-site evaluation as necessary. Any booming recommendations should be expedited through ICS to operations.

Strategy 2-307.2 Objective: Deflect oil past eelgrass bed and toward collection / protection deployments of San Leandro Bay: 2-309.

Cascade 3000 ft of 9X9+ Hboom from the mouth of Ballena Bay at a southeasterly angle to direct oil past the eelgrass beds and the southern side of Alameda Island toward the San Leandro Channel.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	tvce and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or No and kinds	comment	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-307.1													1	
2-307.2	3000				12	12/22+/danforth	2	0					6	

LOGISTICS

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

This site is accessible only by water. The beds are about 200 yards from Alameda Marina mouth. Follow the signs to Alameda from I-880. Exit on Webster and continue to the terminus of Webster at Crown Beach: right (west) on Central to 4th Street to Ballena Bay and Ballena Isle Marina or left to 8th Street which becomes Shore Line Drive. The Eelgrass bed extends from near the entrance to Ballena Bay to the southerly extension of Park Street in Alameda.

LAND ACCESS: ready access to the nearby shoreline

WATER LOGISTICS: None known

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Public launching at the end of Lincoln off of Central. Docking available at Ballena Isle Marina just to the west.

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

The nearby Ballena Isle Marina is the most convenient boat facility to support this operation. Crown Beach (EBRPD) may be useful for staging. The Alameda Ferry Slip on Bay Farm Island to the south is also a good site to stage boom and support equipment. Also, San Leandro Harbor, just south of the Oakland Airport is a small boat harbor accommodating 500 boats with a minimum of 15 guest slips. The channel leading into the harbor is dredged and has a controlling depth of 5-6 ft. It is marked by day beacons and two lights, and the northernmost light has a fog signal. There is a yacht club and the Harbor Master's office is on the southwest side.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

