

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

Thomas Guide Location

AAA Oakland

NOAA Chart: **Entrance to San Francisco Bay 18649**

Latitude N

03 7 51

Longitude W

122 19

Last Page Update : 10/1/2005

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

The eelgrass bed is centered on the shallow bar just north of the Emeryville channel (west and north of channel marker Green "3") and extends from the channel, north about half way to the Berkeley pier. This eelgrass bed, like all eelgrass beds can vary in distribution, density, and height from year to year. Because the most of the bed is deeper than 8 feet (MLLW), it is rarely exposed to oil, only when tides are so low that the eelgrass tops are exposed on the surface (hence the sliding sensitivity).

**SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

The eelgrass beds are an B priority whenever exposed to oil on the surface.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

Eelgrass beds are an important habitat for numerous species. Oil readily sticks to eelgrass when it makes contact.

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

Eelgrass is important cover and substrate for organisms. Although herring spawn on eelgrass, this is not a site where herring tend to prefer to spawn.

**CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**

This is submerge site and is unlikely to have cultural sites vulnerable to oil or response activities. However, 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
ELO	Marina Manager	Berkeley, City of, Dept. of Parks	(510) 981-6737
E/T	Liam Davis	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	(707) 644-2812
E/T	EBRPD Dispatch EBRP	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 881-1833
E/T	Shoreline Park Supervisor	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 544-3172

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

## 2-490 -B Site Strategy - Berkeley Eelgrass Beds and Cove

County and Thomas Guide Location

AAA Oakland Alameda

NOAA CHART

Entrance to San Francisco Bay 18649

## 2-490 -B

Latitude N

Longitude W

03 7 51

122 19

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### CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

When eelgrass is exposed (at low tides), oil quickly attaches and clings to eelgrass strands. Once eelgrass gets fouled with oil, oil becomes a subsurface threat to fish and other organisms which thrive in this cover

### HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Navigational hazards include shallow water, a submerged pipeline and debris. The bottom type is soft mud.

### SITE STRATEGIES

There is very little current in this area.

Strategy 2-490.1 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 2-490.2 Objective: Exclusion / deflective booming when oil coming from the west

When oil is approaching from the westerly direction, deflect away from the eelgrass beds. Deploy 6000' total 9x9+ Hboom from Emeryville Marina to green Channel marker "1 (approx. 2700' w/ collection pocket) and continue to Berkeley side, southend of Seawall Drive (approx. 4300'). If conditions warrant, cascade 5-6 600ft sections of hboom instead of continuous deployment from channel marker to Berkeley. Overlap each section of boom. Oil will probably be wind driven. Set each section of boom at a shallow angle to the wind. Set each section as straight and taut as possible so that oil does not collect anywhere on the boom, but moves continuously along the boom until it falls off the end and is caught by the next section of boom.

Strategy 2-490.3 Objective: Exclusion / deflective / protective booming for oil from the west low wind conditions

When winds are low, oil will tend to move north-south and can be kept away from the Berkeley flats, particularly in fall months when waterfowl concentrations are high. Deploy deflection boom by cascading several 600 foot sections of harbor boom between the Berkeley pier to about half way to the Emeryville Marina to link-up with southerly deployment (2-490.2). Overlap each section of boom. Set each section of boom at a shallow angle to the windward. Set each section as straight and taut as possible so that oil does not collect anywhere on the boom, but moves continuously along the boom until it falls off the end and is caught by the next section of boom.

### 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
2-490.1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0		none	1	
2-490.2	6000			2000	19	20#+ w/ 10' 1" chain	5	2				19	
2-490.3	5000	0	0	0	14	20#+ w/ 10' 1" chain	5	2	0	0		17	

### LOGISTICS

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

From Coast Guard Island take Hwy 880 north to Hwy 80 north. Exit at Powell Avenue and proceed west. Make a right on Frontage Road and proceed north to the Berkeley Yacht Harbor. The eelgrass bed is centered on the shallow bar just north of the Emeryville channel (west and north of channel marker Green "3") and extends from the channel, north about half way to the Berkeley pier.

**LAND ACCESS:** none

**WATER LOGISTICS:** waters are good except in shallows of the eelgrass bed

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Emeryville marina is an excellent staging and launching site. Berkeley is similarly well situated. Both have fuel.

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

Both Berkeley and Emeryville have excellent services and facilities for staging. Emeryville may have slightly better opportunities for security.

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:** none known

### ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

