

County: **Marin**USGS Quad: **San Quentin, Petaluma Pt**

Thomas Guide Location

Marin County, S

Latitude N

3 8 00

Longitude W

122 28

NOAA Chart: **18654 San Pablo Bay**

Last Page Update : 1/1/2000

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Site includes the marshes and mudflats of China Camp State Park. Approximate boundaries are Rat Rock/Five Pines Point on the east to Gallinas Creek on the west (approximately the power line tower). Nearly 3 miles of bayfront marshes, mudflats and rocky shores. The largest pickleweed marsh extends from Gallinas Creek to Buckeye Point (1.5 miles). This is a pristine marsh with extensive tidal channels. Three narrow pocket marshes of cordgrass and pickleweed are present between Buckeye Point to Weber Point, Weber Point to Bullhead Flat, and Bullhead Flat to Five Pines Point.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

The marshes and listed species are an A priority all year. Spring and winter months are exceptionally vulnerable times for migratory species of birds. Crabs are an important group of abundant invertebrates present year round.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Extensive saltmarsh and mudflats are present throughout the site. Several threatened and endangered species utilize the marsh and surrounding areas.

The California clapper rail, black rail, and San Pablo song sparrow (all special status species), wading birds and raptors are present all year. In the spring (Mar - May) and fall (Oct - Nov) migratory shorebirds are abundant throughout the marshes and mudflats. In the winter (Sept - Mar) waterfowl are abundant over the mudflats and open bay waters.

The endangered salt marsh harvest mouse is present in the marsh all year.

A variety of surfperch, flatfish, sturgeon, striped bass, and salmon are present in the waters over the mudflats.

China Camp cobble and rocky shores boast the largest population of native Olympia oysters in all of San Francisco Bay. A variety of shrimp, worms and other invertebrates are present on the mudflats.

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		Cal State Parks, Marin District Dispatch	(707) 769-5665
E		CA State Parks, Northern Comms Center (Dispatch)	(916) 358-0333
O	Matt Ferner	San Francisco Bay Estuarine Research Reserve	(415) 388-3724
O	Barbra Salzman	Audubon Society, Marin County Chapter	(415) 924-6057

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-552 -A Site Strategy - China Camp Marsh

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin County, S Marin

NOAA CHART

18654 San Pablo Bay

2-552 -A

Latitude N

3 8 00

Longitude W

122 28

Last Page Update : 1/15/2007

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

The large extensive saltmarsh with interior tidal channels is extremely vulnerable to oil. The presence of large tidal mudflats create access difficulties for protection measures thereby increasing the risk of oiling. First priority is to keep oil from being carried into inner marsh via tidal channels. Avoid trampling marsh vegetation and trampling oil into mudflat.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Shallow water and mudflats extend out into the bay from all marsh areas. Power lines are present at the west end of the site across Gallinas Creek. Many deep holes and narrow creeks in the marsh are obscured by vegetation and present hazards for people walking in the marsh.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-552.1 Objective: On-water recovery of oil to prevent oil from entering marshes, tidal channels and mudflats.

Conduct on-water recovery in deeper water and channels near Rat Rock and east of China Camp State Park.

Strategy 2-552.2 Objective: Deflect oil away from shoreline into main channel. Prevent oil from entering marshes and tidal channels.

Deploy deflection 9X9+ Hboom (18-20 in.) from mainland shore near Rat Rock and at Buckeye Point (at pier pilings). Deploy in 200-500 ft. sections. 500 ft. at each site.

Strategy 2-552.3 Objective: Exclude oil from entering marshes and tidal channels from Gallinas Creek to Rat Rock.

Exclusion booming of inlets in largest (west) marsh if limited by equipment/time. At least six major tidal channels are present in the largest marsh. Deploy a combination of "V" shape swamp booms across channel openings (50 ft. each) and utilize contractor type fence booms with sorbents and/or oil snares in the channels. Deploy remaining boom segments along marsh fronts - 1000 ft; 1000 ft; and 400ft from Buckeye Point to Rat Rock.

Strategy 2-552.4 Objective: Protective booming of marsh fronts from Gallinas Creek to Rat Rock

Deploy curtain boom (8 in. swamp) along marsh fronts to exclude oil. Deploy at high tide over mudflats as close to marsh front as possible. From west to east, the marshes at this site require 8000 ft.; 1000 ft.; 1000 ft.; and 400 ft. of exclusion boom.

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 No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-552.1	0						1	0	2	SPS		3	
2-552.2	1000				8	22+ lb Danforth	1	0	0			3	
2-552.3	0	2700			12	15+lb. Danforth	2	1	0		fence boom materials, oil snare, stakes	10	6
2-552.4	0	10400	0		65	15+ lb. Danforth	5	2	0	0	shallow draft boats	23	

LOGISTICS

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

From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, Marin County; take the San Pedro Road exit. Proceed east on San Pedro Road to China Camp State Park. Site includes the marshes and mudflats of China Camp State Park. Approximate boundaries are Rat Rock/Five Pines Point on the east to Gallinas Creek on the west (approximately the power line tower).

LAND ACCESS: large truck okay

WATER LOGISTICS: Very shallow water (<3 ft.)

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Small boat launch at Buck's Landing. Water access also near Rat Rock (Bullshead flat).

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

Small restaurant/store at Buck's Landing. Staging at Buck's Landing, Bullhead Flat and McNear's Beach.

No spill response equipment stored locally.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: none known

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

