

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

Thomas Guide Location
 Marin City, San
 NOAA Chart: **18654 San Pablo Bay**

Latitude N
 38 01
 Longitude W
 122 30

Last Page Update : 7/1/2016

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Site contains Gallinas Creek marshes and the bayfront marshes from the creek north to old Hamilton Field. Boundaries include the south shore of Gallinas Creek as the south boundary, to the levee and tower at the south end of Hamilton air field as the north boundary. Site is under jurisdiction of Marin County Open Space. Extensive cordgrass and pickleweed saltmarsh are present on both sides of Gallinas Creek and on the San Pablo Bay marshfront from the creek to Hamilton Field. Mudflats extend out into San Pablo Bay from the marshes. At least seven major interior tidal channels in the marsh open to San Pablo Bay.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERNS

The marshes and animals that live in and around them are an "A" priority all year.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

These wetlands are home to several threatened and endangered species including: black rail, San Pablo song sparrow, burrowing owls, the saltmarsh harvest mouse, and the Pt. Reyes bird's beak (plant). These marshes are a major north bay habitat for the endangered California clapper rail. The adjacent mudflats are heavily used by overwintering shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl as well as during spring and fall migration.

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

The saltmarsh harvest mouse (endangered) 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.

A variety of shrimp, worms and other invertebrates are present on the mudflats.

The Point Reyes bird's beak (a Species of Special Concern) is an annual plant present in the upper marsh elevations during the spring and summer months.

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		CA State Parks, Northern Comms Center (Dispatch)	(916) 358-0333
E		Cal State Parks, Marin District Dispatch	(707) 769-5665
E/T	Janet Bossert Ranger	Marin, County of, Open Space District	(415) 446-4423
E/T	Chief Ranger Dispatch	Marin, County of, Open Space District	(415) 472-0911
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:

2-553 -A Site Strategy - Gallinas Creek Marshes

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin City, San Marin

NOAA CHART

18654 San Pablo Bay

2-553 -A

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

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The large and extensive saltmarshes along Gallinas Creek and north of the creek mouth with several interior tidal channels are extremely vulnerable to oil. The large tidal mudflats create access difficulties and potentially increase the risk of oiling. There are numerous channels that connect the marshes with San Pablo Bay. Avoid trampling of marsh vegetation and trampling oil into mud.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Shallow water and mudflats are extensive. There is a poorly marked submerged wreck in the Bay-side entrance to the channel extending from Gallinas Creek. Power lines over creek and parallel to mudflat will be a hazard to low flying aircraft.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-553.1 Objective: Deflect/collect oil to prevent from entering Gallinas Creek and interior marsh channels along bay front.

Charts do not properly reflect the mouth of the Gallinas Creek. The creek is drained through the main channel and smaller channels serve the salt marshes. Channel inaccessible at less than +2.0 tides w/ outboard engines. Deploy 1500ft of deflection 9X9+Hboom across Gallinas Creek to boat ramp. Anchor boom on north shore in the high marsh near the power line tower.

Deploy 1000ft of 9X9+Hboom on south shore from boat ramp, extending towards the bay, in front of dock, across mudflat and marsh towards power line tower.

Deflect to collection pocket at lauching ramp. Skim/vacc truck oil at boat ramp.

Strategy 2-553.2 Objective: Exclude oil from entering marsh channels and/or marshfront north of Gallinas Creek.

At least seven major interior tidal channels exist in the marsh north of Gallinas Creek. Use exclusion booming techniques to prevent oil entry. Deploy a combination of "V" shaped 6X6+ booms across each channel opening (50 ft. each) and if large amounts of oil anticipated, utilize contractor type fence booms with sorbent booms and oil snare in the channel.

Strategy 2-553.3 Objective: Prevent oil from entering Gallinas Creek.

This is a fall-back strategy to strategy 2-553.1:

1) Further inside Gallinas Creek, deploy 1000 ft. of 9X9+Hboom across the channel from the north side levee (east of small slough mouth) to the south shore (west of dock). Establish collection pocket on south side of Creek using 100' of boom, line with sorbent boom.

2) If collectible quantities of oil present, notify IC, and deflect oil to an in-channel floating skimmer; or, to a suitable shoreside collection area near the homes using a skimmer and vac truck.

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
2-553.1	2500				12 6x25 lb. Danforths	1	1	1 VT/weir	stakes to anchor boom in marsh	7	
2-553.2	0	350		400	stakes	1	0	0	stakes, contractor fence, oil snare	7	
2-553.3	1000			100	6 6x 20 lb.	1	1	1 VT or flo	Storage cap. Necessary	7	

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 east towards China Camp State Park. Turn left at road to Buck's Landing and launch ramp for access to Gallinas Creek. There is no road access to the shore north of Gallinas Creek. Site contains Gallinas Creek marshes and the bayfront marshes from the creek north to old Hamilton Field.

Boundaries include the south shore of Gallinas Creek as the south boundary, to the levee and tower at the south end of Hamilton air field as the north boundary. Site is under jurisdiction of Marin County Open Space.

LAND ACCESS: Large truck okay on south side, no land access on north side

WATER LOGISTICS: shallow draft vessels only.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Small boat launch at Buck's Landing. Additional water access at China Camp, Bullhead Flat. And at McNear's Beach.

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

Staging and small restaurant/store at Buck's Landing.

No spill response equipment stored locally.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: none known

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: HAZARD: there is a poorly marked submerged wreck in the Bay-side entrance to the cha

