

County: **Contra Costa**
 USGS Quad: **Benicia**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 8 02

122 08

NOAA Chart: **18656 Suisun Bay**

Last Page Update : 1/1/2000

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes the marshes and waterfront from the Benicia-Martinez Bridge to the Ozol Pier. This site has pickleweed saltmarshes on both the east and west side of the Martinez Marina. The marshes are prograding with emergent species along the very shallow margins. The marsh to the east behind the Shell Oil Terminal has some diked impoundments and has a small channel leading back into the marsh. West of the Marina, Alhambra Creek opens to the marsh and has marshy vegetation along some of its length upstream. The shoreline vegetation from Alhambra Creek to Ozol Terminal grades from marsh to riprap. The marsh around the mouth of Alhambra Creek is East Bay Regional Parks shoreline.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Marshes are A-priority at all times. Threatened and endangered species may be present throughout this site.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Pickleweed marshes with emergent marsh margins are on both sides of the marina. Shelter tidal flats in front of the marshes provide habitat for infauna and foraging for birds and fish. The riprap at the western edge along the railroad tracks has low sensitivity.

Marshes provide habitat for marsh birds, ducks, shorebirds, and in winter migratory waterfowl. Clapper rail and black rails may use these marshes occasionally.

Both the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse and endangered salt marsh wandering shrew are found here, as are beavers.

Two rare plants are found here: soft bird's beak and Delta tule pea.

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	Harbor master	Martinez Marina	(925) 313-0942
B		NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3232
E/T	EBRPD Dispatch EBRP	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 881-1833
	John Henderson F/W Biologist	US Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Contam	(916) 414-6595

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-601 -A Site Strategy - Martinez Marsh

County and Thomas Guide Location

Contra Costa

NOAA CHART
18656 Suisun Bay

2-601 -A

Latitude N Longitude W

3 8 02 122 08

Last Page Update : 10/1/2005

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Primary concerns are oiling of marsh east and west, intrusion of oil up Alhambra Creek in the west side marsh, and intrusion up the tidal channel in the east side marsh. Exclude oil from both channels and divert oil away from marshes to catchments or to main channel. Avoid trampling marsh vegetation: rare plants and small endangered mammals are present. Avoid trampling oil into muds. Protect marsh frontage from oil as directed.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Air - Martinez Bridge power lines; Boats - shallow water & currents; ground traffic - railroad tracks, soft substrate

SITE STRATEGIES

Waters west and inshore from Martinez Marina are an eddy and have low current. This slow velocity water extends past OZAL pier. Currents from marina out are very strong. Near shore on both sides of Marina, particularly close to creek mouths is very shallow.

Strategy 2-601.1 Objective: Primary: on the flood tide, exclusion booming mouth Alhambra Creek, other tidal channels, and protect nearby shoreline

a) Exclusion booming Alhambra Creek: 200' of swamp boom in a chevron configuration backed by sorbent boom at the inlet.

b) Protection booming: Deploy 1100' of sorbent boom along the marsh to the west of Martinez Marina (both sides of creek but mostly on the west side.)

c) Exclude oil from entering the small tidal inlet to the marsh east of the marina with boom and sorbent (50' 4X4+). Tidal inlet mouth is located between Shell and Amoco Terminals/Shore Terminal wharf at bridge.

Strategy 2-601.2 Objective: Deflection for the ebb tide, deflect oil away from and past Alhambra Creek & marsh with boom from old ferry slip

Deploy 600' of deflection boom extending west from inside the old ferry slip at Ferry Point (the pier), Martinez Marina. Set deflection angle into the current as may be possible under prevailing conditions.

Strategy 2-601.3 Objective: Deflection for the Flood Tide: deflect away from Martinez shore

Deflect oil away from shoreline with 2000' 9x9+ Hboom. From the shoreline about a half mile west of treatment plant, deploy boom at a diagonal to the 15' depth contour.

Strategy 2-601.4 Objective: Protection Shoreline Booming: If there is threat of heavy oiling and saturation of the marsh front, deploy protective boom coverage, when resource use will not preclude defending other sites.

Deploy exclusion boom along the marsh front from the Benicia Bridge to the marina and from Alhambra Creek to the riprap to the west.

Deploy 5200' of protective boom (4X4+) be deployed between Suisun Point and the Martinez Marina seawall, and deploy 3300' of protective boom (9X9+ or 4X4+ depending on presence of wind and chop) from Ferry Point at Martinez Marina to 1000 yards west where marsh ends and riprap begins. Deploy close to shore where shallows will aid with wind chop spillover problems; if there are wind chop conditions, boom layers will need to be backed with a second layer of 4X4+ boom. Because the water is so shallow, very shallow boom boats and skiffs will be required due to grounding and stranding hazards. (A similar strategy for deployment of exclusion boom is illustrated in "Potential Oil Spill Protection Strategies for San Francisco Bay, California" (Hayes and Montello, 1994).)

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 and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-601.1	0	250		1300	1	1/12#+/ anchor & stakes	0	1			boat capable of shallow grounding	2	
2-601.2	600				1	1/22+/danforth + 20' chain	1	0				3	
2-601.3	2000				4	4/22+/danforths	3	1				11	
2-601.4	0	8500			9	9/12/danforths & stakes	3	3			bboats - very shallow, strandable.	15	

LOGISTICS

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

Proceed on Hwy 680 toward Martinez and exit on Marina Vista just south of the Benicia-Martinez toll bridge and drive west to city center. Turn right and drive across the railroad tracks to Martinez Marina. Marshes are on both sides of the Marina and park. There are access points at the Marina Vista Park (contact East Bay Regional Parks Dispatch). There is also unimproved shoreline access along the Souther Pacific Rail Road tracks on the west side of Alhambra Creek (contact SP Rail Road). This site includes the marshes and waterfront from the Benicia-Martinez Bridge to the Ozol Pier.

LAND ACCESS: Thorough land access to west. Foot only to east.

WATER LOGISTICS: Very shallow near shore. Some obstructions on west half.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Launching and full boat services available at Martinez Marina on-site. Most boat services are also available across the river at Benicia.

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

Best for this site is Martinez Marina, but Benicia has good staging facilities. Vallerio Wharf also has good staging capacity.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: none known

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

