

County: **Solano**
 USGS Quad: **Benicia**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N 38 02.7
 Longitude W 122 09.7

NOAA Chart: **SUISUN BAY 18657/18652**

Last Page Update : 10/1/2005

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site extends from the foot of First Street, Benicia, and continues to the east to the Benicia Wharf. The site is on both sides of the Benicia Marina. This is an elongated pickleweed-saltgrass marsh. The front of the marsh has a beach berm which separates the marsh behind from all but highest tides. Tidal exchange volume is small. There are several small tidal inlets which are mostly obstructed with vegetation. There is also a tide gate on the marina breakwall which admits tidal exchange to the marsh from the marina to the tug pier at 5th Street. The marsh front is sedge mix; the main marsh is saltgrass and pickleweed. Ownerships include City and private holdings.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Marshy areas have A-protection priority at all times.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The outer marsh margin is a storm berm which has mostly sedges and rushes. The back marsh is mostly pickleweed with saltgrass. The outer margin is a combination of wave-washed eroded shoreline and pocket beaches. About half the shoreline has shallow tidal flats, particularly the east half.

The marshy margins and inner marsh are habitat for marsh bird and waterfowl year-round. Suisun song sparrow and Suisun common yellowthroat have been found in this vicinity. There are always about a hundred mallard ducks and a dozen Canada geese present at the west end. During the winter, there are typically 400-1000 golden eye and scaup species and other water birds rafting between the tug dock and the wharf.

Typical semi-aquatic marsh mammals use this area. Saltmarsh harvest mouse may occur here.

Sensitive plants may occur here: Suisun marsh aster.

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
	Harbormaster	Benicia Marina	(707) 745-2628
	City Of Benicia	Benicia, City of	(707) 746-4200
	Eric Larson	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Bay/Delta	(707) 944-5528

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-652 -A Site Strategy - Benicia Marsh

County and Thomas Guide Location

Solano

NOAA CHART
SUISUN BAY 18657/18652

2-652 -A

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Primary concern is transport of oil to inner marsh and oiling of emergent marsh front. The strategy is to close the few small tidal inlets. If oil is crowded along shore, the marsh front may need protective booming or be used to collect at the designated locales. Avoid trampling marsh vegetation or tracking oil into marsh front or sediments.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

This shoreline is shallow and has obstructions.

SITE STRATEGIES

Ebb currents are very strong and tend to be away from the Valero Wharf and shoreling and toward the center channel. Near shore are shallow mudflats.

Strategy 2-652.1 Objective: Exclusion boom tidal inlets.

There are a half dozen small, low current tidal inlets. Each can be closed by staking 10' or 20' boom segments with sorbant backing depolyed by a team on foot from land or water. There is also a tide gate on the east Benicia Marina channel bulkhead which must be closed to exclude oil from the marsh to the east. An alternative measure is to close tidal inlets with fill (which requires notification of BCDC and US Corps Engineers).

Strategy 2-652.2 Objective: Protective booming of entire marsh front: When heavy or continuous re-oiling is eminent and deployment will not preempt other urgent need.

Set 4X4+ boom and sorbent boom as close to marshfront as possible with available shallow draft vessels. Stake and anchor in place. This strategy can be found in Potential Oil-Spill Protection Strategies for San Francisco Bay, California. (Hayes and Montelo, 1994).

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
2-652.1	0	150		150	20 stakes					2	
2-652.2	0	5000		1000	8 8/22+/danforths & stakes	2	1		Bboat: very shallow draft	8	

LOGISTICS

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

There is land access from I-780: exit at either East 5th Street and proceed to Bay or exit at East 2nd Street and proceed via First Street to bay front. Water access: the site is on both sides of the Benicia Marina breakwater across from Martinez Marina. This site extends from the foot of First Street, Benicia, and continues to the east to the Benicia Wharf. The site is on both sides of the Benicia Marina.

LAND ACCESS: ALL TYPES AT ACCESS POINTS, ELSE FOOT

WATER LOGISTICS: SHALLOW DRAFT AT SHORE

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Benicia Marina on site. Martinez Marina (1 mi. S).

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

Stage at Martinez Marina, Benicia Marina or Benicia wharf. Full services are available in both communities.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: none known

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

