

County: **Solano**
 USGS Quad: **Fairfield South, Denverton**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 8 08

122 02

NOAA Chart: **18656 Suisun Bay**

Last Page Update : 1/1/1994

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes all of Grizzly Bay and the shoreline perimeter from the mouth of Montezuma Slough to Pt. Buckner. This bay is very shallow and averages less than six feet deep. It is heavily used by waterbirds, especially in the wintering period. There are about 20 open-water duck blinds scattered on the bay. The entire shoreline is marshy. The margins have three kinds of marsh habitat: prograding marsh which is difficult to clean or rehabilitate, eroding shores, and tidal inlets and barrow channels which have extensive exposure. Levees are relatively near the north shore (Grizzly Island) and south shore (Simmons Island). However, the northeast margin is a prograding shoreline; the tidal flats are 1000 yds wide, and the marsh between the levee and mudflat is 500 yds wide. Most of the shores are owned by adjacent duck clubs.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

The marshes are "A" priority all year. There are thousands of waterfowl on the open waters of Grizzly Bay during the winter.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

There are three habitats of concern. Foremost is the open water of Grizzly Bay which is an important area for waterfowl to raft in during the winter and spring. Of equal concern is the marshes along the margin. The prograding marsh at the northeast would be difficult to clean or rehabilitate. The remaining marshy margins are eroding shores and tidal inlets and barrow channels which have extensive exposure. There are also extensive infauna communities in the mudflats and bottoms.

This area is of major importance to migratory waterfowl. At the peak of the wintering period, vast numbers of waterbirds rest and feed on Grizzly Bay, when 100,000 ducks is not uncommon. Waterfowl and marsh birds use the shoreline year-round, including the endangered California clapper rail, the threatened black rail, Suisun song sparrow, and saltmarsh common yellowthroat.

The endangered saltmarsh harvest mouse and the ornate shrew are among the wide variety of mammals found here.

Several rare plants also live here: delta tule-pea, soft bird's beak, Suisun 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
TBEL	Grizzly Isl W/L Refuge	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	(707) 425-3828
	John Henderson F/W Biologist	US Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Contam	(916) 414-6595
	Eric Larson	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Bay/Delta	(707) 944-5528
	Staff Office	Suisun Resource Conservation District	(707) 425-9302

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-660 -A Site Strategy - Grizzly Bay

County and Thomas Guide Location

Solano

NOAA CHART
18656 Suisun Bay

2-660 -A

Latitude N Longitude W

3 8 08 122 02

Last Page Update : 7/1/2002

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

There are two great concerns here. First, vast numbers of ducks stay here; typically about 100,000 during the winter: ducks are very vulnerable to oil. Second, there are large sensitive marshes particularly at the northeast but also along all the margins and little side channels. The shallow water and large waves commonly encountered will make this area difficult to protect with current technology. Minimize trampling of the marsh because there are very small endangered plants and animals present.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

This shallow bay can have dangerously aggressive waves under windy conditions. There are shallows along margins.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-660.1 Objective: Protective booming of northeast prograding marsh

Exclusion Booming: If it appears that other strategies will not keep oil out of the wetlands recommend exclusion booming be deployed across the northeastern shore of Grizzly Bay from Pelican Pt. To the northern shore of the bay. It is estimated that 13,000 ft. of harbor or tidal barrier boom will be required to exclude oil from the wetlands at the head of Grizzly Bay. This strategy for deployment of exclusion boom can be found in Potential Oil-Spill Protection Strategies for San Francisco Bay, CA (Hayes and Montelo, 1994).

Strategy 2-660.2 Objective: Deflection at Pt. Buckler. Keep oil in the Suisun Cut channel and impeded it from moving across Grizzly Bay.

Deploy 300' 9x9+ harborboom off Pt Buckler at about the 15' depth contour. Shallows near shore are a grounding threat to boom boat.

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
2-660.1	13000				26 26/22+/danforth + chain	12	2			40	
2-660.2	300	0	0	0	2 22#+/danforth & chain	1	0	0	0 shallow draft boom boat - grounding capable	3	

LOGISTICS

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

Land access is from the private levee roads along the bay. They may be reached from Hwy 12 in Suisun City, then south on Grizzly Island road (contact Grizzly Island Wildlife Refuge for assistance with access). Nearest boat access is 3 miles southeast at McAvoy's Marina, Bay Point (8 mi to Martinez, 8 mi to Pittsburg). Extreme shallows near shore limit traffic to very shallow draft vessels and airboats/hovercraft at lower tides. This site includes all of Grizzly Bay and the shoreline perimeter from the mouth of Montezuma Slough to Pt. Buckner.

LAND ACCESS: seasonal limitations on levees

WATER LOGISTICS: very shallow at shorelines: margins are mudflats at low low

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: nearest launch is Martinez, Benicia, and McAvoy's; each has fuel, moorage, and repair.

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

Best facilities, staging, field posts are at above marinas.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: none known

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

