

County: **Solano**
 USGS Quad: **Honker Bay**

Thomas Guide Location Latitude N Longitude W
 3 8 04 121 56.3
 NOAA Chart: **SUISUN BAY 18658/18556/18656**

Last Page Update : 9/4/1997

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes all the open waters of Honker Bay and its marsh perimeter. The bay is shallow (averaging less than six feet deep) but is without obstruction except near shorelines where it can be very shallow. On most margins, there are barrow channels separating the historic marsh front from the current island levee. This results in a band of marshy islands with occasional passages through to the barrow channels and other historic marsh channels behind. Although there is some emergent marsh along the rip rapped island levee, the outer perimeter is a premium strip of native marsh. As a result, there are several hundred acres of undiked marsh and many miles of marshy margins. The outer bay margin is exposed to tangential wave action resulting in a mildly eroding shore with some accreting margins particularly in the northeast corner of the bay (North Honker Bay site 2-672). The land around Honker Bay is mostly held by private duck clubs. The response strategy here has been broken up into three separate divisions, because of the shoreline complexity and length, the logistics of response, and the likelihood that oil would impact at different timeframes on the different shores. The shoreline is subdivided into West Honker Bay (2-671) from Champion Slough to Rock Creek; North Honker Bay (2-672) in the northeast corner from Rock Creek to Spoonbill Creek; and East Honker Bay (2-673) the shore of Chipps Island from Spoonbill Creek west. Most of these shores are mildly eroding, but in the northeast section is accreting.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

These marshy areas have A-protection priority at all times. Major seasonal concerns are the massive numbers of waterfowl which raft on the bay waters in the winter, and sensitive species of fish and salmonids which seasonally use or pass through this area.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

These marshy margins and berm islands have highest protection priority at all times. Oil must be prevented from entering barrow channels and interior sloughs by exclusion booming. These marshy areas are pristine to excellent habitat for all manner of marsh species.

The open water of honker bay is used by massive numbers of diving ducks, puddle ducks, and other water birds during the wintering season. The marshy margins are prime marsh bird and waterfowl habitat including Suisun song sparrow and possibly, black rail.

These emergent marshes are inhabited by semi-aquatic mammals such as river otter, raccoon, beaver, and muskrat.

Fish using these waters include adults and juveniles of various Delta species, including sensitive species: Delta smelt, longfin smelt, and winter-run chinook; major fish stocks move through this area: salmon, steel head, sturgeon, striped bass, and American shad.

The emergent marshes here are typical tule-sedge mix with some cattail.

Several sensitive plants occur here: Mason's lilaeopsis, 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
TBELO	Grizzly Isl W/L Refuge	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	(707) 425-3828
	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:

2-671 -A Site Strategy - Honker Bay West - Wheeler Island Shore

County and Thomas Guide Location
Solano

NOAA CHART
SUISUN BAY 18658/18556/18656

2-671 -A

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Last Page Update : 1/21/2014

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

The marshes at the shoreline are home to many kinds of birds and animals, including some endangered plants, birds, and animals. The major concerns are two. First, there are opening and channels through which the oil can pass and harm even greater areas behind the bay front. Second, oil can get on the front edge of the marsh. Harm from response actions is always a concern. Try not to tromp oil into the soft ground. Keep in mind there are small endangered plants and animals underfoot.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

There are shallows and obstructions along shore and inside the barrow channels. Honker Bay waves can be a navigation hazard when there are strong west winds.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-671.1 Objective: Exclude oil from entering barrow channels and slough entrances.

There are multiple breaks in the north shore which will allow oil to move into marshes behind. It will take at least 8 separate deployments of 9x9+ or 4X4+ Hboom (depending on severity of wave action) to close barrow channels and slough openings. Deploy in a chevron "V" formation with center anchors at each opening. Leaving enough trailing ends to insure a seal at the shore connection in order to prevent gaps at low tides.

Strategy 2-671.2 Objective: exclusion/deflection boom at the best angle fend oil past marshfront when heavy oil is approaching the shore - divert the oil to on-water skimming.

To deflect oil away from the shoreline, deploy 1700' of 9x9+ harbor boom from a point near Champion Slough mouth, at a diagonal to the current. Cascade as necessary. Advise IC and Ops for possible coordination of deflection with on-water skimming operations.

Strategy 2-671.3 Objective: Protective 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 against SO 5 and 6 impacts.

Protect windward shore from approaching oil. If there is a wind chop, this may best be accomplished using two layers of 4X4 swamp boom, else a single layer of 9x9+ Hboom: this strategy for deployment can be found in Potential Oil-Spill Protection Strategies for San Francisco Bay, California. (Hayes and Montelo, 1994). Requires 11,000' of Hboom or tidal barrier boom.

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 No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-671.1	1600	700			12 12/12+/danforth & stakes	2	4			15	
2-671.2	1700				3 3/22+/danforths	3	2			11	
2-671.3	11000				12 12/22+/danforths & stakes	4	4		hovercraft. air boat; 4 very shallow Bboats	20	

LOGISTICS

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

They may be reached from Hwy 12 in Suisun City, then south on Grizzly Island road to Grizzly Island Wildlife Refuge. For further access and entry, contact Grizzly Island Wildlife Refuge (707-425-3828) or Suisun Resource Conservation District staff (707-425-9302). Nearest boat access is 3 miles southeast at McAvoy's Marina, Bay Point (9 mi to Martinez, 7 mil to Pittsburg). This site includes the 2 miles of bay frontage and berm islands of Wheeler Island from Champion Slough to Rock Creek. The land is owned by nine gun clubs.

LAND ACCESS: ALL TYPES WHEN LEVEES ARE DRY

WATER LOGISTICS: VERY SHALLOW DRAFT < 2' NEAR SHORE.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: McAvoy/Harris Marina at Bay Point. Pittsburg Marina. Martinez Marina.

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

The duck clubs have power and good small boat docking facilities.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: none known

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

