

**4-200-A Site Summary - Morro Bay Inlet****4-200-A****County :** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment :** SL - E - S 003 SL - F - S 001**NOAA Chart :** 18703**Map Book :** 611 E-6**Decimal Degrees** 35.36697 -120.86471**Site Description:**

Morro Bay Inlet, accepted into the National Estuary Program, has large expanse of salt marshes, tidal flats, and eel grass beds (acreage of eel grass varies year to year (Morro Bay NEP has eel grass bed data; see ERMA eelgrass bed layer). Morro Bay supports the third largest eelgrass habitat in southern California. The bay is 2,300 acres and is utilized by over 40 special, threatened, or endangered species. Morro Bay is an integral part of the Pacific Flyway. Most species found within Morro Bay are present year round, however some are seasonal for example buffleheads, white pelicans, and black brandt in the winter. The protected wetlands of Morro Bay are used by nearly two hundred different bird species every winter. Sensitive species include Brown Pelican, American Peregrine Falcon, Black Brant, Western Snowy Plover, and Marbled Murrelet. Some sensitive plant species inhabit the Morro Bay wetlands, including Marsh Sandwort, California Seablite, and Salt Marsh Bird's-Beak (at the south end of the marsh). In addition to providing bird habitat, wetlands (mudflats and tidal marshes in particular) serve as nursery and foraging grounds for steelhead, tidewater gobies, and a variety of small mammals and estuarine fishes. Morro Bay is also designated as the Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area MPA, and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region. Portions of Morro Bay are part of Morro Bay State Park. Fish species include steelhead trout (threatened), surf perch, sole, halibut, and striped bass. The working waterfront supports both commercial fishing enterprises and recreational opportunities. There are also a number of water intakes in the bay for live fish tanks/markets and aquaculture facilities; refer to section 9811.3 Economic Resources & ERMA.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

6B Riprap

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Presence</b>
Amphibians	California red-legged frog	FT	Year-round
Birds	bird rookeries		Year-round
Birds	least Bell's vireo	FE, SE	
Birds	California brown pelican		Year-round
Birds	peregrine falcon		Year-round
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round
Fish	tidewater goby	FE	Year-round
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round
Plants	salt marsh bird's beak	FE, SE	
Plants	eelgrass		Year-round

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

**List of Key Contacts:**

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/	Central Coast Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-2474
C	/	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
O	Eric Endersby/Harbor Manager	Morro Bay Harbor Department	(805) 772-6254
O	Lexie Bell/	Morro Bay National Estuary Program	(805) 772-3834
O	Brian Hatfield/Marine Mammal Expert	US Geological Survey, Biological Division	(805) 927-3893
T	Mary Larson/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(562) 537-8624
T	Becky Ota/Marine Conservation Manager	California Department of Fish & Wildlife, MPAs	(650) 631-6789
T	Steve Wertz/Senior Environmental Scientist	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marine	(562) 343-3808
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
T	Justin Vierzicke/Marine Mammal Stranding	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 506-4315
T	Rick Bush/Fisheries Biologist	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3562
T	/	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal T&E Species	(805) 644-1766

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

**Additional Site Summary Comments:**

Most species found within Morro Bay are present year round, however some are seasonal for example buffleheads, white pelicans, and black brandt in the winter. Harbor seal pupping occurs March-June. Sea otter peak pupping Jan-March. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. - Nov.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Minimize disturbance in wetland areas when possible. When crews must walk in soft bottom wetland/riparian areas, restrict the number and size of pathways and avoid trampling oil into sediments. Use skiffs to access response sites if conditions permit. Place temporary ramps (e.g. plywood sheets) in sensitive marshy areas where heavy use is expected. Water intakes in the Bay should be notified in event of a spill -see Economic Sites section of ACP & ERMA economic site layer.

**Hazard and Restrictions:****Site Strategies:****Strategy: 4-200.1 Objective:** Deploy Containment Boom

*Strategy:* Inside channel, west side is permanent anchor bolt in rip rap at N35.36793/W120.86564 (at parking area next to Morro Rock); angle 1500 feet harbor boom from anchor bolt to sandy beach across channel; add secondary piece 100' long harbor boom in shape of upside down "U" at corner (below Rock) to eliminate gap from elevated anchor bolt; SFS skimmer in upsidedown "U". Place secondary piece 1500 feet harbor boom parallel and behind primary harbor boom across channel. Parking area next to Morro Rock can accommodate vacuume truck access.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor Boom			3100	feet	<i>Strategy Updated:</i> <i>Last Test: 5/9/2013</i>
Anchor		40 lb		6		
boat				2		
skimmer				1		

**Strategy: 4-200.2 Objective:** Deploy Containment Boom

*Strategy:* Place containment boom along rip rap. Strap to rip rap with nylon straps, chains or cable. Angle containment boom, primary and secondary boom, across channel. Anchor booms on sand across channel.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor Boom			3500	feet	<i>Strategy Updated:</i> <i>Last Test: 5/9/2013</i>
Anchor		40 lb		2		
boat				2		
skimmer				1		

**Strategy: 4-200.3 Objective:** Divert Oil

*Strategy:* If strategies .1 and/or .2 cannot be deployed due to conditions, consider deflection booming to fine-medium grained sandy pocket beaches near inlet to keep oil out of back bay.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom				3000	feet	<i>Strategy Updated:</i> <i>Last Test: 5/9/2013</i>
boat				2		

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* From the south, take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 N, Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo, to Morro Bay Blvd. Exit, go West to Embarcadero St. which turns into Coleman Dr., turn into Coleman Park parking area. From the north, take Hwy 101 s to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S (or Hwy 5 s to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S), to Main St. Exit, turn right. Right on Beach St. to Embarcadero, turn right and continue as above.

*Land Access:* In back bay foot access or kayak.

*On-Water Limitations:* Morro Bay boat launch

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Staging Area: Coleman Park parking lot next to Morro

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Rock. Command Post: U.S Coast Guard office in Morro Bay or Harbor Dept. office. Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 30 min. south. Paso Robles Airport is approx. 45 min. inland.

*Communications Problems:*

