

1-352-A Site Summary - White Slough & Salmon Creek**1-352-A****County:** Humboldt**ACP Division/Segment:** HM - G - S16

HM - G - S17

HM - G - S18

HM - G - S25

NOAA Chart: 18622**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 40.68474 -124.22364**Site Description:**

This site includes the tidal estuaries of White Slough and Salmon Creek where they enter Hookton Channel and South Humboldt Bay. The site is within Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge and features large habitat restoration areas and a diversity of wildlife and fish habitats that should be protected. Large estuary complex with a mix of riparian habitats, extensive salt, brackish and freshwater marshes, eelgrass meadows, sheltered tidal flats, and exposed mudflats at low tide.

This is a high bird use area year-round. Extensive marsh and salmonid habitat lie upstream of this area. The estuary has extensive wetlands and coastal saltmarsh that would be difficult to clean-up if oil enters that environment. Wading birds, abundant resident and migratory shorebirds and waterfowl (01-12; 10-04); brant (10-06), double-crested cormorant nesting colony on Teal Island (03-08), kingfishers, heron and egret rookeries nearby, raptors including bald eagle (SE), northern harrier, osprey and peregrine falcon (01-12). Harbor seals, river otters. Anadromous salmonids include coho (FT,ST) and chinook (ST) salmon, steelhead (ST) and coastal cutthroat trout (SSC): spawning runs (08-06), juveniles/smolts (02-08); tidewater goby (FE,SSC, Critical Habitat); longfin smelt (ST); Pacific herring spawn on eelgrass (11-03); Pacific lamprey (SSC); green sturgeon (FT,SSC); groundfish (EFH); Dungeness crab; foothill yellow-legged (SE,SSC) and northern red-legged (SSC) frogs in marsh. Extensive eelgrass beds. Sensitive plants nearby include Humboldt Bay owl's clover, Point Reyes salty bird's-beak, coast and Siskiyou checkerbloom (all CNPS 1B.2), western lily (FE,SE, CNPS 1B.1); western bumblebee.

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 9A Sheltered tidal flats

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

8C Sheltered riprap

9B Vegetated low banks

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Amphibians	foothill yellow-legged frog	SE, SSC	Year-round	Apr-Jul
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Fish	green sturgeon - Southern	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	salmonids		Year-round	
Fish	Pacific lamprey	SSC	Year-round	
Plants	beach layia	FE, SE	Year-round	Mar-Jul
Plants	Menzies' wallflower	FE, SE	Year-round	Mar-Apr

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	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/Coordinator	Northwest Information Center	(707) 588-8455
C	/	The Wiyot Tribe	(707) 733-5055
O	/	Humboldt Bay Harbor District	(707) 443-0801
T	/	Humboldt Bay NWR Complex	(707) 733-5406
T	/	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service-Arcata	(707) 822-7201
T	/	US Fish and Wildlife Service-Arcata Field Office	(707) 822-7201

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

Additional Site Summary Comments:

For further information about coastal access in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Commission's California Coastal Access Guide. For photos of the coastline in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Records Project (www.californiacoastline.org).

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist in the area, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting the Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, the State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or the Northwest Information Center (707) 588-8455.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Oiling of slough and marsh complexes in South Humboldt Bay could cause long term damage to important habitats including Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Avoid anchoring in eelgrass beds. Contact HBNWR for assistance prior to initiating any response here. Response may be challenging in low tide conditions due to exposed mudflats, recommend boom to be deployed at higher tides. Several large water control structures on HBNWR may warrant additional protective boom to protect marsh habitats upstream, contact HBNWR staff for guidance. Consider additional boom near water control structures and tidal sloughs for additional site protection if warranted. Extensive mudflats may complicate vessel access at low tide.

Hazard and Restrictions:

The soft mud can be challenging to boom deployment workers.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: III**

Strategy: 1-352.1 Objective: Prevent oil from entering the slough

Strategy: Use 600' of hard boom, deliverable to site at Hookton Slough small boat launch off Hookton Road. Small, shallow draft vessel can be launched here to deploy boom to site.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	600 feet				<i>Strategy Updated:</i>
boat	Skiff			1		<i>Last Test: 2/16/2010</i>
anchor stakes				4		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			6		

Logistics:

Directions: This site can be reached by driving south from Eureka on Hwy 101, take Hookton Road exit 696, follow signs to HBNWR to access east side levees. To access the Hookton Slough and trailhead, drive west on Hookton Road for 1.2mi; the parking area is on the north side of Hookton Road.

Land Access: Vehicle access to levees on both sides of Salmon Creek, contact HBNWR to facilitate locked gate access.

On-Water Limitations: Extensive mudflats may complicate vessel access, small vessel launch possible off Hookton Road. Large vessel launches available nearby in Fields Landing.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Small parking lot at boat launch may provide local staging needs.

Communications Problems:

Additional Operational Comments: Locked gates to access levees, contact HBNWR.

