

1-466-B Site Summary - Dark Gulch**1-466-B****County:** Mendocino **ACP Division/Segment:** MN - F - S04**NOAA Chart:** 18626**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 39.24004 -123.77496**Site Description:**

This site includes the mouth of Dark Gulch and shoreline in the vicinity. The shoreline and bluffs are in private ownership. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Steep gradient coastal stream. Cobbled beach with kelp debris. Bedrock headlands. Offshore rocks and seastacks.

Salmonid migrations would occur mostly during high water flow events during winter and spring. Oiling of the stream mouth could cause long lasting damage. Seabird rookeries (03-09) on rocky headlands, offshore rocks, and seastacks include ashy storm-petrel (SSC), pelagic cormorant, pigeon guillemot, western gull, black oystercatcher, marine mammals. Anadromous salmonids include coho salmon (FE, SE), steelhead (FT): spawning runs (09-06), juveniles/smolts (02-08); groundfish (EFH), red abalone, kelp, algal communities. Sensitive plant communities include Mendocino Coast paintbrush and Point Reyes checkerbloom (both CNPS 1B.2).

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

1A Exposed Rocky Shore

List of Resources at Risk:

| | Resource Name | Status | Presence | Sensitivity |
|------------|---|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Amphibians | Northern red-legged frog | SSC | Year-round | |
| Birds | seabirds | | Year-round | |
| Fish | coho salmon - south of Punta Gorda | FE, SE | Year-round | Nov-Apr |
| Fish | steelhead - Central/Northern California | FT | Year-round | Nov-Apr |
| Mammals | marine mammals | FP | Year-round | |
| Mammals | Sonoma tree vole | SSC | 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 | /Coordinator | Native American Heritage Commission | (916) 373-3710 |
| C | /Coordinator | Northwest Information Center | (707) 588-8455 |
| O | /24hr | CalFire Howard Forest Emergency Command | (707) 459-5336 |
| O | / | Mendocino County Sheriff's Department | (707) 463-4086 |
| T | / | Bureau of Land Management | (707) 825-2300 |
| 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:

Breeding seabirds will use these rocks for nesting in the spring. Offshore rocks provide roosting and nesting habitat for birds and haulout locations for marine mammals. Care should be taken so that response activities do not flush wildlife from these areas. The rocks are sensitive to human intrusion year round, especially during nesting season (03-09) when the adults are on eggs and until the young have fledged from the nest. The offshore rocks have cultural significance for local tribes.

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:

The rugged coastline will prevent onshore response over most of this area. Off-site measures including dispersants should be considered when a spill threatens to impact this area. Overflights should be careful to maintain flight path and altitude clearance distances that are large enough to prevent the flushing of birds and marine mammals from their nests, roosts, and haulouts on the offshore rocks in this area.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Extreme currents, offshore rocks, high energy shoreline

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: II**

Strategy: 1-466.1 Objective: No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

Strategy: This site is best protected by preventing the oil from arriving here, when possible. Off-site response options including dispersants should be considered. Conventional on-scene response is not possible at this site. Protect with off-site response measures only.

Table of Response Resources

Last Page Update**Logistics:**

Directions: From Hwy 101 at Cloverdale, take Hwy 128 to Hwy 1 at the mouth of the Navarro River, go north on Hwy 1 for 5.2 miles to Heritage House Inn (M.P. 45.47). Beach accessible here by foot only. A crane could access bluffs (80 feet above beach). Limited access by boats because of depth limitations.

Land Access: Foot access from Heritage House Inn and other private properties nearby.

On-Water Limitations: None

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: None

Communications Problems: Remote, limited communications

