

# 1-255 -A Site Summary- Mad River Lagoon

1-255 -A

County: **Humboldt**  
USGS Quad: **Arcata North Tye**

Thomas Guide Location  
CA Road Atlas  
NOAA Chart: **18600**

Latitude N      Longitude W  
40 48' 35"      124 08' 10"W

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

## SITE DESCRIPTION:

Mad River Beach and the boat launch are managed by Humboldt County Parks. Mad River Lagoon is a medium sized tidal inlet bounded on each side by fine to medium grained sand beaches with riprap along north and northeast shoreline facing the ocean. The tidal influence extends just above the boat ramp in the County Park. The site extends to the north to the inflow of water from Widow White Creek, and has migrated many miles north of the existing outflow.

## SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Marine mammals, wading and shorebirds, waterfowl, and salmonids all utilize the estuary for habitat.

## RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The river banks of the estuary are sensitive to oiling especially during the summer months when the mouth of the river is open to tidal exchange.

Shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, Kingfishers (feeding and nesting), raptors incl. osprey and merlin, Peregrine falcon; all (01-12). California brown pelican (04-11), Snowy plover (FT)(01-12), FWS Critical Habitat, nesting period (03-08). Nests directly on sand within dunes.

Harbor seals and sea lions feed in estuary. Harbor seals haul out along the mouth of river.

Anadromous salmonids: Coho (FT,ST) and Chinook (FT) salmon, Steelhead (FT) and Coastal cutthroat (SSC) trouts:

- spawning runs (08-06)
  - juveniles/smolts (04-07)
- Green sturgeon (FT,SSC)  
Eulachon (FT,SSC)  
Longfin smelt (ST)  
Pacific lamprey  
Redtail surfperch on outer beaches (04-06)  
Dungeness crab nursery

## CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

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) 653-4082 and State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or Ms. Vicki Bates, Coordinator of the North Coast Information Center (707) 482-1822.

## KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
O		The Friends of the Dunes	(707) 444-1397
E		Humboldt County Sheriff	(707) 445-7251
T		Humboldt County Parks	(707) 445-7651
O	Troy Nicolini	National Weather Service Woodley Island	(707) 442-2171

## 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](http://www.californiacoastline.org)).

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County and Thomas Guide Location  
CA Road Atlas Humboldt

NOAA CHART  
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Last Page Update :

## CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Preventing oil from spreading into the upper end of the estuary is the primary goal of responding at this location. Snowy plover may be present year round.

## HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Mad River Road has closures during high rain and high tide events due to flooding. Check with the county.

## SITE STRATEGIES

The location of the river mouth may shift from year to year. It may be necessary to adjust recommended site strategy to address conditions at time of response. An overflight or site visit to evaluate the location of the river mouth is recommended prior to deploying response personnel.

Strategy 1-255.1 Objective: During low fresh water flows the Mad River estuary should be boomed to minimize the area of impact.

Exclude oil (boom) and strand incoming oil onto the south spit to minimize oil movement into the riparian areas of the south and eastern regions in this estuary.

Strategy 1-255.2 Objective: During low fresh water flows the Mad River estuary should be boomed to minimize the impact area.

Boom widow white creek where it joins the Mad River from the north

## 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	Staff
												deploy	tend
1-255.1	0	1200	0	0	4	22lb Danforth	0	1	0		0	6	
1-255.2	300	0	0	0	2	22 lb Danforth anchors	0	1	0		0	6	2

## LOGISTICS

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

From Eureka, go north on U.S. hwy 101 for about 8 miles. Take Giuntoli Lane exit M.P. 88.618. Turn left onto Janes Road. Turn right onto Heindon Road. Turn left onto Miller lane. Turn right onto Mad River Road and continue on this road 1.7 miles to Mad River County Park. There is a boat ramp at this location. Another unimproved parking area and 4WD access to the beach is just north of the county park area. Access to the north shore is difficult. Caltrans should be contacted to open hwy guard rails near M.P. 94.479 to access riprap area. Mad River Beach and the boat launch are managed by Humboldt County Parks.

**LAND ACCESS:** Can use 4WD to mouth from Mad River Beach or Clam Beach

## WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

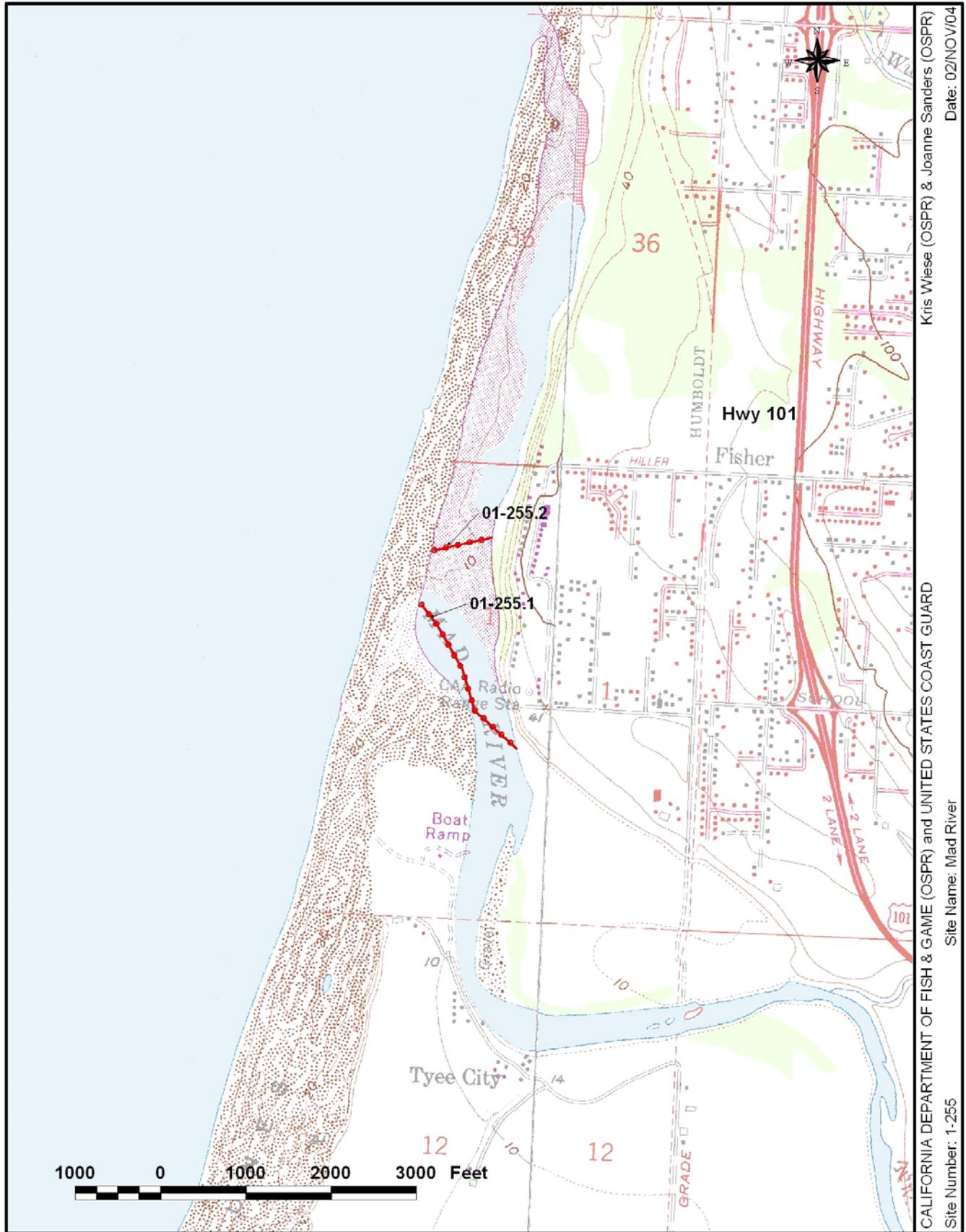
Launching, Loading, Docking Small boat (drive down) ramp type launch at Mad River Beach county park.  
and Services Available:

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

The parking area near the boat ramp has restrooms and can serve as a staging area for equipment to be used in the general area. There are no on site concessions or utilities other than the restrooms at this site.

## COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

## ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME (OSPR) and UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
 Site Name: Mad River  
 Site Number: 1-255  
 Kris Wiese (OSPR) & Joanne Sanders (OSPR)  
 Date: 02/NOV/04

