

1-245 -A Site Summary- Little River Lagoon and Beach

1-245 -A

County: **Humboldt**
USGS Quad: **Crannell**

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

Latitude N
41 01'
Longitude W
124 06' 30"

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This area is managed by State Parks as Little River State Beach and the adjacent Moonstone Beach managed by Humboldt County Parks. The Little River is a popular surfing spot that has a tidal inlet and marsh between the shoreline and Highway 101. It has a fine to medium grain sand beach with a large exposed tidal flat at lower tides. Snowy plover are active in the area.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

The access to this popular surf spot is directly against the booming response area. Snowy plover utilize the beaches to the south of this site for nesting and foraging during the spring and summer.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Contact State Parks for guidance prior to initiating response. The sandy beach from the river mouth south along Clam Beach is Snowy Plover nesting habitat. ANY responders working in this area should remain on the wet sand below the high tide line, (except at high tide), to minimize disruptions to plover nests and adults.

Shorebirds, seabirds, Snowy plover (FT)(01-12), FWS Critical Habitat, nesting period (03-08). Nests directly on sand within dunes.

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

- spawning runs (08-06)
- juveniles/smolts (04-07)

Pacific lamprey

Surfperch (04-06)

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) 373-3710, the State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or Mr. Bryan Much, Coordinator of the Northwest Information Center (707) 588-8455.

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

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
E		Humboldt County Sheriff	(707) 445-7251
O		The Friends of the Dunes	(707) 444-1397
O		Northern Communications (24hr)	(916) 358-0333
T		North Coast Redwoods District	(707) 445-6547
T		Humboldt County Parks	(707) 445-7651
O	Troy Nicolini	National Weather Service Woodley Island	(707) 442-2171
T	Bob Pagliuco	NOAA/Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service	(707) 834-2215
T	Bill Pinnix	USFWS Arcata Field Office	(707) 845-6858

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).

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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. All response efforts will have to consider that this is the access point to the most popular point break in the three northern coastal counties and that snowy plover may be present year round.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

The mouth of the estuary has severe tidal currents that will make any booming efforts difficult if not impossible to do safely.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 1-245.1 Objective: Exclusion of oil on an incoming tide during low river flows

Strand oil onto the southern spit inside of the lagoon using boom. Back up boom with oil sweep (SWP)

Strategy 1-245.2 Objective: Arrest incoming (heavy) oil with pom pom snares

Anchor strings of pom pom boom across the entrance to capture incoming oil. Two or three strings should be sufficient.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring		Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers		Special Equipment or comment		staff deploy	Staff tend
					no	type and gear			No	Type	No	and kinds		
1-245.1	700	0	700 SWE	0	4	22b Danforth Anchors w/chain	0	1	0	0			6	
1-245.2	0	0	2100 poms		6	22b Danforth Anchors w/chain	0	1	0	0			5	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. Take Westhaven Drive exit M.P. 98.003. Turn left under freeway and left again onto Scenic Drive. Continue to Moonstone Grill and turn right onto Moonstone Beach road. Road ends at mouth of Moonstone Beach parking lot. This area is managed by State Parks as Little River State Beach and the adjacent Moonstone Beach managed by Humboldt County Parks.

LAND ACCESS: easily accessed. Heavy equip. accessible

WATER LOGISTICS: Hand launching of skiffs may be possible?
Limitations: depth, obstruction
Launching, Loading, Docking
and Services Available:

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

The parking lot could serve as a staging area for local response equipment. There are no on site facilities or utilities for emergency response use, with exception of a dinner restaurant that may be open for business. Food & fuel are available a few miles north on 101 in Trinidad, or a few miles south in McKinleyville.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

