

County: **Humboldt**
 USGS Quad: **Cape Mendocino**

Thomas Guide Location
 CA Road Atlas
 NOAA Chart: **18623**

Latitude N Longitude W
 40 26' 30" 124 25'

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Offshore rocks in the area are managed by the BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Shoreline is either in private ownership or managed by BLM's Arcata Field Office. Site is associated with the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Sugarloaf Island Special Closure. Offshore rocks and open water

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Breeding seabirds will use these rocks for nesting in the spring. Offshore rocks provide roosting and nesting habitat for birds and haul out locations for marine mammals. Care should be taken so that response activities do not flush wildlife from these areas. The offshore rocks have cultural significance for local tribes.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

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.

Seabird rookeries (Sugarloaf Island). 2002 estimates: Western gull (~260), Pigeon guillemot (~170), Black oystercatcher, Brandt's (~290) and Pelagic (~620) cormorants, Tufted puffin (SSC) and Double-crested cormorant (~270). All above (01-12).

Steller sea lion (FT) pupping area (05-07) > 12,000 pups surveyed. Pacific harbor seal pupping area (03-09). Haul outs (01-12).

Groundfish (EFH)

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
O		Humboldt County Sheriff	(707) 445-7251
T	David Ledig Manager	BLM California Coastal National Monument	(831) 630-5006
O	Troy Nicolini	National Weather Service Woodley Island	(707) 442-2171
T	Becky Ota Marine Conservation Mgr	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
T	Bob Pagliuco	NOAA/Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service	(707) 834-2215
T	Bill Pinnix	USFWS Arcata Field Office	(707) 845-6858
T	Steve Wertz Senior Env. Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

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).

1-273 -A Site Strategy - Cape Mendocino

County and Thomas Guide Location
CA Road Atlas Humboldt

NOAA CHART
18623

1-273 -A

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

The rugged coastline will prevent on shore 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 haul outs sanctuaries on the offshore rocks in this area.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Mattole Road is winding with several blind curves, proceed with caution. High energy shoreline, extreme currents, offshore rocks.

SITE STRATEGIES

This site is best protected by preventing the oil from arriving here, when possible. Off site response options including dispersants should be considered.

Strategy 1-273.1 Objective: Intercept spilled oil before it can float to this site.

Conventional on-scene response is not possible at this site. Protect with off-site response measures only.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	Anchoring type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Skimmers Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
1-273.1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	Protect with off-site response measures only.		

LOGISTICS

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

From Eureka, take U.S. hwy 101 south and exit at Fernbridge/Ferndale exit. Continue on this road. Turn right onto bridge (State route 211). Follow state route 211 through Ferndale. Turn left onto Mattole Road. This road has earthquake damage (reducing 2 lane road down to 1 lane in spots). Follow Mattole Road to coast. Foot access from Mattole Road. Must obtain access permission from private landowner at Ocean House Ranch. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by the BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Shoreline is either in private ownership or managed by BLM's Arcata Field Office. Site is associated with the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Sugarloaf Island Special Closure.

LAND ACCESS: tide may block egress from far side of cliff

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking No launch in area
and Services Available:

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

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: Remote, limited communications.

