

1-414 -A Site Summary- Rockport Bay and Cottaneva Creek

1-414 -A

County: **Mendocino**
USGS Quad: **Westport**

Thomas Guide Location
CA Road Atlas
NOAA Chart: **18620**

Latitude N
39 50'
Longitude W
123 49' 30"

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes the tidal estuary at the mouth of Cottaneva Creek. The site is owned by Mendocino Redwood Company. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument; Note: some are in private ownership. Site is associated with the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Rockport Rocks Special Closure and Vizcaino Rock Special Closure. Mixed sand and gravel beach. Minor wetland.

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

Minor freshwater marsh at creek outlet.

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.

Common murre (2004 estimates: ~2200 Rockport Rocks, ~9700 Cape Vizcaino). Brandt's cormorant (~2500, 2002)

California brown pelican (04-11). Seabirds, shorebirds, waterfowl.

marine mammals

Anadromous salmonids:

Coho salmon (FE/SE), steelhead trout (FT), Chinook salmon (FT) - all life stages, estuary use year round

Groundfish (EFH)

Surfsmelt and Nightsmelt spawning area (04-08)

Red abalone

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		Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept.	(707) 463-4086
E	John Andersen	Mendocino Redwood Company	(707) 962-2820
E/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	Joe Pecharich	NOAA/Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service	(707) 583-3189
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).

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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:

Private property.

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.

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 deploy	Staff tend
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LOGISTICS

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

Take U.S. hwy 101 to state route 1 at Leggett. Go south on state route 1. Exit at private road in Rockport M.P. 87.82. Site is through a locked gate and appx. 0.6 miles down a 1 lane dirt road. Follow road to left to grassy field (100 yards by 150 yards). This area is accessible to large equipment. This site includes the tidal estuary at the mouth of Cottaneva Creek. The site is owned by Mendocino Redwood Company. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument; Note: some are in private ownership. Site is associated with the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Rockport Rocks Special Closure and Vizcaino Rock Special Closure.

LAND ACCESS: Locked Gates. Contact Mendocino Redwood Company.

WATER LOGISTICS: No launching facilities.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

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

Grassy field (100 x 150 yds.) on property suitable for local response staging only. No utilities or facilities.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: Remote, limited communications

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

