

2-234 -C Site Summary- Point Bonita and Bonita Cove

2-234 -C

County: **Marin County**
USGS Quad: **7.5" Quad: Point Bonita, CA**

Thomas Guide Location
Marin County
NOAA Chart: **18649 / 18680**

Latitude N
3 7 49
Longitude W
122 31

Last Page Update : 1/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Site includes rocky shores and sand beaches in Bonita Cove from Pt. Bonita to Pt. Diablo. Area is under jurisdiction of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) (aka National Park Service). Vertical rock cliffs with a coarse-grained sand and gravel beach at Bonita Cove.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

"C" priority all year for small numbers of nesting seabirds in spring and early summer; harbor seal haulouts year round, and raptor migration corridor in the fall.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Seabird nesting area (spring and early summer), harbor seal haul-out area at risk all year, and raptor migration corridor in the fall (August - December).

A variety of seabirds (approx. 100) nest on the cliffs and larger offshore rocks; including pelagic cormorants, western gulls, and pigeon guillemots. This headland area is used in the fall (August - December) as a migration corridor for thousands of raptors. Migrant species include peregrine falcons, bald eagles, and osprey. Occasionally birds will forage on the beach and near shore area.

Up to 100 harbor seals haul out at Bonita Cove.

A wide variety of seaweeds, fish, crabs, snails and other sealife are present on and around the island and washrocks.

Intertidal plants and animals are diverse and abundant on the central California coast. Many seaweeds, mussel beds, barnacles, fish, endangered black abalone, and other invertebrates can be found here.

Surface-canopy forming bull kelp beds and subtidal-canopy forming kelps are common.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

This is a culturally sensitive area. Contact the Golden Gate National Recreational Area main office, cultural resource specialist, the California Dept of Parks and Recreation -Office of Historic Preservation (Eric Allison - (916) 653-9125), and the Northwest Information Center, (Bryan Much, Sonoma State College ((707) 332-1117)) for specific information on historic or cultural resources in this area.

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

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
E/T	24hr Sanctuary Personnel	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 479-5311
E/T	GGNRA Dispatch	US National Park Service, Golden Gate (NRA)	(415) 561-5505
E/T	Bill Merkle	US National Park Service, Golden Gate (NRA)	(415) 289-1843
E/T	Vika Sirova	US National Park Service, Golden Gate (NRA)	(415) 561-4731

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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County and Thomas Guide Location
Marin County Marin County

NOAA CHART
18649 / 18680

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Latitude N Longitude W
3 7 49 122 31

Last Page Update : 7/1/2005

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

The concerns are oil contamination and response activity impacts to rare and endangered species, and other vulnerable plants and wildlife which are present throughout the year. The primary objective is to minimize exposure of oil to the site and natural resources present at the site. Other concerns are the impacts resulting from response activities. Avoid trampling sensitive plants and animals, disturbing marine mammals, and causing penetration of oil into the sediments and further injury to the environment.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Large surf, swell, and strong currents common at this site. Wash rocks nearshore.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-234.1 Objective: Prevent contamination and injury to marine mammals, seabirds, shorebirds, and the rocky intertidal zone. Penetration and long-term persistence of oil into coarse-grained beach sediments.

This site is difficult to protect as is most of the outer coast. Mechanical shoreline protection techniques are not likely to be effective because of high wave energy and rocky conditions at this site.

- a) Recommended response strategy is on-water containment and recovery.
- b) Pursue feasibility of alternative response technologies (e.g. dispersants and in-situ burning) to reduce the volume of oil reaching the site.

Strategy 2-234.2 Objective: Deflect oil away from shore to on-water recovery operations. Prevent oil from stranding on rocky shoreline and contaminating marine mammal use areas.

Deflection booms may be deployed in Bonita Cove to protect harbor seal haulout and the rocky intertidal areas if wave conditions permit.

Strategy 2-234.3 Objective: Oil Recovery by skimming

If oil accumulates in skimmable quantities as a result of strategies .1 and/or .2, contact IC prior to initiating strategy to deploy skimmer.

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		Special Equipment or comment	staff deploy	Staff tend
									No	Type			
2-234.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	On-water Recovery / ART		
2-234.2	0		2000 OB		10	8-10 / 40-60lb Danforth	2	0				9	
2-234.3	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	1 ocean	0			

LOGISTICS

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

From Hwy 1 exit immediately north of the Golden Gate Bridge onto Conzelman Road. Proceed to end of road to reach lighthouse at Pt. Bonita. Trails to beach can be accessed from parking lots above Bonita Cove. Site includes rocky shores and sand beaches in Bonita Cove from Pt. Bonita to Pt. Diablo. Area is under jurisdiction of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) (aka National Park Service).

LAND ACCESS: Contact GGNRA for access through locked gates.

WATER LOGISTICS: Large surf, swell, and strong currents common at this site.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Nearest boat launch inside San Francisco Bay.

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

Staging and access from on-water. Very limited shore access from steep bluffs above beaches. Contact GGNRA for access.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: Developed in March 1995, not yet deployed or tested.

