

## 2-630 -B/C Site Summary- Suisun Shoal

2-630 -B/C

County: **Solano**  
USGS Quad: **Benicia/Vine Hill**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N  
38 03.5  
Longitude W  
122 06

NOAA Chart: **SUISUN BAY 18657/18652**

Last Page Update : 9/4/1997

### SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is the shallow mud bar which begins a half mile east of the Benicia Bridge and continues to Roe Island. The shoal is an extensive mud-sand bar about a mile wide at its widest and over three miles long. Generally the sediments are firm and will support pedestrian activity. During high tides it is a navigational obstruction to all but shallow draft vessels, but during low tides extensive portions are exposed. Intertidal life here is variable depending on local salinity conditions. Waterfowl and shorebirds frequent this shoal to feed and loaf.

### SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

This mudflat has B-level sensitivity when birds are using it for resting and foraging. Otherwise protection is C-level.

### RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

This is a firm sediment mud-sand bar which is habitat for eurihaline species of invertebrates. It is feeding habitat for fish and when exposed, is resting and feeding for waterbirds and shorebirds.

Waterfowl and shorebirds here are daily transients because it is covered with water for part of each day.

### CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Contact 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
	Eric Larson	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Bay/Delta	(707) 944-5528

### ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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### CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Primary concern is oiling birds which rest and feed on this bar during low tide. Execution of the strategy is at the recommendation of the Wildlife Operations Branch Chief only.

### HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

The mudflat is very shallow and should be approached with caution, particularly on a falling tide.

### SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-630.1 Objective: Haze birds off exposed bar: Only at direction of Wildlife Branch Chief

This strategy may be executed at the direction of the Wildlife Branch Director only. Stake and anchor 4 sonic devices along the bar. Attend regularly. Access at other than high tide may require very shallow draft vessel or airboat.

### 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
2-630.1	0						1		4 hazing devices on floating platforms	2	

### LOGISTICS

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

There is no land access. Water access is one mile east from Benicia or Martinez marinas. This site is the shallow mud bar which begins a half mile east of the Benicia Bridge and continues to Roe Island.

**LAND ACCESS:** after arrival by boat, you can walk on bar.

**WATER LOGISTICS:** EXTREME SHALLOW DRAFT AT LOWER TIDES

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Benicia and Martinez Marinas (1 mi. W).  
and Services Available:

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

Deploy from Martinez Marina, Benicia Marina or Benicia wharf.

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:** none known

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

