



PPOR Pre-Incident Information Summary for

Latitude: 36° 48.40' **Longitude:** 121° 47.65 121.7942

County: Monterey

Monterey County: Moss Landing

3-MY-01

Type:

Anchorage

Location Description:

Undesignated anchorage off Moss Landing Harbor has charted depths to approximately 420+ feet (MLLW). Area is relatively unprotected and provides limited protection from severe storms.

Prevailing winds NW, with currents generally weak and variable.

This area is part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and is known for its high biodiversity and productivity for many shore and ocean based resources. Populations include threatened and endangered species including Brown Pelicans, Snowy plover, Xantus murrelet, Marbled Murrelet, Steller sea lion, Tidewater goby, Steelhead, and Southern sea otters. Numerous ACP-designated sensitive sites are located throughout the area and may be threatened by releases from this PPOR.

Natural Resource Concerns and Issues for this Place / Site

Threatened and Endangered Species (TAES):

Brown Pelicans (F/S-E), Snowy plover (F-T), Xantus murrelet (offshore F-T), Marbled Murrelet (offshore F-T) and Steller sea lion (FT), Tidewater goby (F-E), Steelhead (F-T), Southern sea otters (F-E), and various FE whale species (blue/fin/humbuck).

Sensitive Non-protected (Non-TAES) Species:

More than 400 species of invertebrates, 80 species of fish and 200 species of birds have been identified in Elkhorn Slough (just inside Moss Landing).

Subsistence-use Species:

Essential Fish Habitat:

The channels and tidal creeks of the slough are nurseries for many species of fish. A large ocean EFH zone exists immediately to the west of Moss Landing.

Commercial Fisheries / Species:

The channels and tidal creeks of the slough are nurseries for many commercial species of fish. Adjacent ocean waters support market squid, groundfish, crab, rockfish, salmon, anchovy, and sardines.

Human Health / Safety Concerns and Economic Issues for this Place / Site

Human Health and Safety:

Moss Landing Harbor is a significant historical coastal community in Monterey Bay where a major regional transport artery (Hwy 1) crosses the harbor channel. Resident population of ~300 and working population of several

Critical Habitat for TAES:

Extensive pickleweed marshes and fragile dune systems provide critical habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species. Within California, these broad salt marshes are second in size only to San Francisco Bay.

Critical Habitat for Non-protected (Non-TAES) Species:

The channels and tidal creeks of the slough are nurseries for many species of fish. The slough is on the Pacific Flyway, providing an important feeding and resting ground for many types of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Fish nursery areas especially important for several species of skates, rays and flatfish.

Critical Habitat for Subsistence Species:

Historic and Cultural Resources:

Recreational Species and Habitat:

The channels and tidal creeks of the slough are nurseries for many recreational species of fish. Adjacent ocean waters support rockfish, groundfish, and salmon.

Economic Impact on Maritime Commerce and Shipping:

This area has minor influence on maritime commerce and shipping.

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thousand. Anything impacting the major power plant located adjacent to the harbor could affect human health and safety.

Economic Impact on Commercial Fishing and Aquaculture:

The harbor shelters the largest number of commercial fishing vessels in Monterey Bay as well as fish processing services. An environmental emergency here would have significant impacts on the commercial fishing fleet, particularly if harbor access were restricted.

Economic Impact on Recreational Fishing and Marine Tourism:

These waters are part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). The MBNMS is an international tourist attraction and supports a high level of marine tourism. State Park recreational beaches border the harbor to the north and south, and wildlife tours are staged from the harbor. The majority of the beaches from Santa Cruz to Monterey are city, county, or state park beaches that support marine tourism. Whale watching tours, Elkhorn Slough tours, and kayak rentals all work out of this harbor. Kirby Park (in Elkhorn Slough) is also an important launch site for small boats using the slough.

Economic Impact on Non-maritime Commerce:

The Moss Landing power plant produces the largest electrical output of any conventional power plant in California. Water intake for Duke Energy plant in Moss Landing Harbor.

Other Economic Impacts:

Moss Landing Harbor is home to two major marine research organizations and the largest ocean vessels home ported in Monterey Bay.

Stakeholder List for this Place / Site

Name / Title

Organization

Phone

more details

Characteristics and Tactical Considerations

Primary Jurisdictional Contact: Moss Landing Harbor District

Marine Fire Fighting Resources: Monterey Harbor (fire boat and CG 47' boat)

Approximate Tug Response Time

Is Containment Possible?

List of Nearby Environmentally Sensitive Sites: 3-301, 3-305, 3-310, 3-325; Also see ESI Maps 26.

Coast Pilot and Navigation Chart Information

Prevailing Winds	Tidal Range	Bottom Type	Max Water Depth	Min Water Depths	Currents	Sea Conditions	Fog	Shelter From Severe Storms	Navigational Approach	Pilot Requirements
NW	3.6	Sand	420	30	Strong d		Yes	MINIMUM	West	☒

Specific Site Details

Site ID	Site Name	Vessel Capacities			Site Capacities and Facilities		ContainmentPossibilities:
		Max Size	Mini Size	Max Draft	Swing Room or Dock Face	Facilities, capabilities, and any other issues or concern	
	Moss Landing	Deep	1000	48	1000	The currents within Moss Landing are exceptionally	

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strong due to the opening of Elkhorn Slough.

The anchorage off Moss Landing Harbor is unprotected but the holding ground is good for larger vessels in fair weather.

An offshore deep draft vessel mooring and fueling facility is 0.8 nautical miles NW from Moss Landing Harbor Entrance.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary