

**3-270 -A Site Summary- Aptos Creek Inlet****3-270 -A****County:** Santa Cruz**Thomas Guide Location****Latitude N****Longitude W****USGS Quad:** Soquel

973 labeled Moosehead Cr

36° 58.0'

121° 54.6'

**NOAA Chart:****Last Page Update:** 6/30/2014**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Beach length approx 400 yds long by 60 yds wide. Creek and lagoon are in heavily urbanized area. Aptos merchants adjacent to creek. Steep cliffs south of beach area. Commercial wharf on western end of beach extending out to defunct concrete vessel S.S. Palo Alto. Ephermal creek meandering thru fine sandy beach. Beach has moderate to heavy recreational use. Minor marsh along channel parallel to seawall. Creek channel may vary depending on upstream flows and beach accretion.

**SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

Year round.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

The Aptos Creek Inlet and the historic concrete vessel S.S Palo Alto both provide habitat to sensitive species.

Shore birds and coastal sea birds including cormorants and brown pelicans. Shorebirds are common and utilize the creek throughout beach area.

Cement ship is used as a non-breeding haulout by harbor seals, and ship is used by nesting Brandt's Cormorants, April-September. While not a significant gathering site, Southern Sea Otters (FT) are common throughout Santa Cruz and Monterey counties and may be present near-shore year round.

In the creek, Tidewater goby (FE) are present; Steelhead trout (FT) are present in winter, spring and fall. Grunion, surf smelt and several species of surfperch are known to spawn/ forage along these beaches.

The Brackish Water Snail (Tryonia imitator) is found within watershed. Pismo clam (Tivela stultorum) are found along beach fronts.

Dudley's lousewort (State Listed Rare Species) is known to occur within site.

**CULTURAL, HISTORIC, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**

Contact the California Dept of Parks and Recreation - Office of Historic Preservation (Eric Allison: 916-445-7044), and the Northwest Information Center (Bryan Much, Sonoma State College: 707-588-8455) 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
T/E/C		Santa Cruz District	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(831) 335-6390
O			La Selva Beach Recreation District Clubhouse	(831) 684-0838
O			Seascape Resort and Conference Center	(831) 688-6800
O			Santa Cruz County Sherriff	(831) 471-1121
T/E/C		Northern Communications	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(916) 358-0333
O	Chris Coburn	Resources Planner	Santa Cruz County - Environmental Health Services	(831) 454-2763
T/O	Scott Kathey	Emergency Response Coord.	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

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**NOAA Chart:****Last Page Update:** 6/30/2014**CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:**

Shore birds and coastal sea birds including cormorants and brown pelicans. California sea lions, harbor seals and sea otters are found on the cement ship S.S. Palo Alto. In the creek, tidewater goby (FE) are present; steelhead trout are present in winter, spring and fall.

**HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:****SITE STRATEGIES**

Strategy 3-270.1 Objective: Exclude oil by berming, place sorbent boom 30' landward of berm to ensure oil exclusion

Close off stream mouth with sediment dike (medium to fine-grain sand) about 400 feet long. Orient dike east/west and place it about 50 feet seaward of piling. Use 6" PVC piping to construct underflow dam if there is discharge. Note: After major storms, sediment supply may be limited.

Strategy 3-270.2 Objective: Natural oil collection - assessment and action

If the large berm-ridge and runnel (trough) configuration is present during a spill, a considerable amount of oil could accumulate in the runnel. Assess to see if runnel is present and if oil is accumulating. Advise UC and what kind of collection equipment would function.

**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 kinds	comment	staff deploy	Staff tend
3-270.1									600' 6" PVC pipe, dozer or equivalent berming		20	
3-270.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

**LOGISTICS**

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

From Santa Cruz, take Highway 1 south to Sea Cliff Beach/State Park Drive off ramp (turn right). Turn left onto Center Avenue. Veer right onto Sea Cliff Drive. At the stop sign, turn right onto Spreckels Drive. At the bottom of the hill, turn right onto Treasure Island Drive. The road ends at the beach front/Esplanade. Turn right into the parking lot. Beach length approx 400 yds long by 60 yds wide. Creek and lagoon are in heavily urbanized area. Aptos merchants adjacent to creek. Steep cliffs south of beach area. Commercial wharf on western end of beach extending out to defunct concrete vessel S.S. Palo Alto.

**LAND ACCESS** Beach accessible to vehicles.

**WATER LOGISTICS:**

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Santa Cruz harbor.

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

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

High recreational use at both Capitola and (downcoast) at Seacliff State Beach. Seacliff State Beach has fishing pier/ concrete ship, 85-acre beach, 26 RV sites and year-round day use parking. Rio del Mar beach (at downcoast end of Seacliff State Beach) has a county parking lot (100 cars) state parking lot (50 cars), beach access and private homes and rental units near the beach. Proceeding downcoast, there is also Seascape Resort and Conference Center (831-688-6800) and La Selva Beach (private access via locked gate: Contact La Selva Beach Recreation District Clubhouse, 314 Estrella Avenue, La Selva Beach. 831-684-0838).

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:****ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

