

3-530 -B Site Summary- Big Sur River Inlet**3-530 -B**

County: Monterey

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N

Longitude W

USGS Quad: Point Sur

B

36° 16.5'

121° 52.0'

NOAA Chart:

Last Page Update: 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Big Sur River creates freshwater lagoon area supporting habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna. Beach area approx 0.2 miles long and backed by steep rocky bluffs. Lagoon may be naturally bermed off during summer and fall months. Under ownership of Ca State Parks. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge and the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Point Sur State Marine Reserve. Site is associated with BLM California Coastal National Monument resources. Fringing freshwater marsh along banks of stream. Medium to coarse grained sediments. This site is within Andrew Molera State Park which includes 4,786 acres of land with 2.6 miles of ocean frontage. The park includes the lower reaches of the Big Sur River.

SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Year round

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The 17 acre lagoon acts as rearing habitat for steelhead (FT). Fringing freshwater marsh along banks of stream. Brown pelicans, shorebirds and seabirds, including pigeon guillemots, cormorants and western gulls.

Western Pond turtle (CA Species of Special Concern) use freshwater riparian habitat. 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. California Red-legged frog use freshwater riparian habitat upstream.

Winter and Fall-Run Steelhead trout (FT) use the creek for spawning and the lagoon for rearing. Pacific Lamprey utilize the river for spawning and habitat.

Site is located within Black Abalone Critical Habitat. Actual presence of black abalone is unknown.

Kelp beds are common near-shore.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Archeological sites have been found near the river mouth. 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		Monterey District	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(831) 649-2836
T/E/C		Northern Communications	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(916) 358-0333
T	Scott Kathey	Emergency Response Coord.	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251
E/T	David Ledig		BLM California Coastal National Monument	(831) 630-5006
T	Becky Ota	Marine Conservation Mgr	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
E/T	James Weigand	Ecologist	BLM	(916) 978-4656
T	Steve Wertz	Senior Env. Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Site of Andrew Molera State Park. Natural and cultural site. High recreational use. Surfing area. Walk-in camping.

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CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:

Make every effort to preserve vegetated foredunes at east end of spit. Anadromous stream for steelhead trout (FT). Shorebirds and seabirds, including brown pelicans present. Archeological sites have been found near the river mouth so get explicit guidance before disturbing the area with shovel or equipment work.

HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:**SITE STRATEGIES**

Exclude oil from lagoon and protect upstream marshes. Typical coastal lagoon berm forms and opens seasonally. Response depends on runoff, surge, and condition of berm at the time of spill event. Sediment here tend to be coarse and plastic sheeting may be required to prevent oil penetration.

Strategy 3-530.1 Objective: Exclude oil by berming when outflow is modest and berming is possible, place sorbent boom 30' landward of berm to ensure oil exclusion

Close off inlet with sediment dike (sand and gravel) about 500 feet long, making every effort to preserve vegetated foredunes at east end of spit. Use PVC piping to construct underflow dam to allow discharge if necessary.

Strategy 3-530.2 Objective: Exclusion by booming in lieu of berming

Use deflection booms to direct oil to spit: angle boom across current (see sketch). The only good catchment area is located on landward side of spit. Advise UC/IC if skimmable oil is present and if skimming pocket can be formed.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no tvpe and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
3-530.1	0	0		500	0 anchors or stakes to secure boom	0	0	0	0 600' of 6" PVC piping, dozer or equipment to berm	5	2
3-530.2	0	1000	0	0	10 6 medium to small anchors+ 4 stakes	0	0	0	0	2	2

LOGISTICS

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

Exit Highway 1 south to the Andrew Molera State Park parking area (approximately 22 miles south of Rio Road in Carmel). Vehicle access to Big Sur River mouth: North from the parking lot, 1/4 mile, is a locked gate on a dirt road. This service road allows emergency response vehicles access to the river mouth. Big Sur River creates freshwater lagoon area supporting habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna. Beach area approx 0.2 miles long and backed by steep rocky bluffs. Lagoon may be naturally bermed off during summer and fall months. Under ownership of Ca State Parks. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge and the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Point Sur State Marine Reserve. Site is associated with BLM California Coastal National Monument resources.

LAND ACCESS

4WD

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

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

The walk-in campground along with the parking area can be used as a staging area.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

