

County: **San Luis Obispo**
 USGS Quad: **Morro Bay South**

Thomas Guide Location
 611 E-6
 NOAA Chart: **Estero Bay 18703**

Latitude N 35.37155
 Longitude W 120.86433

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division F map. Morro Bay Inlet has large expanse of salt marshes, tidal flats, and eel grass beds (acreage of eel grass varies year to year from approximately 450 acres down to 10 acres in 2013 (Morro Bay NEP, 2013); see ERMA eelgrass bed layer. Morro Bay is utilized by over 40 special, threatened, or endangered species. Morro Bay is an integral part of the Pacific Flyway. Morro Bay is also designated as the Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area MPA, and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region.

There are also a number of water intakes in the bay for live fish tanks, an aquarium, desal plant, power plant, and aquaculture; refer to section 9811.3 Economic Resources.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Most species found within Morro Bay are present year round, however some are seasonal for example buffleheads, white pelicans, and black brandt in the winter. Harbor seal pupping occurs March-June. Sea otter peak pupping Jan-March. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Hundreds of shore birds, waders, waterfowl and seabirds including black brandts, marbled godwits, willets, curlews, terns, loons, brown pelicans, and American avocets. Endangered species black rail, California least tern, clapper rail, and the threatened western snowy plover. Southern sea otters can often be seen foraging in the inlet. At the south end of the marsh is the salt marsh birds beak, an endangered plant species.

Fish species include steelhead trout (threatened), surf perch, sole, halibut, and stripped bass. 66 fish species have been collected from the bay. The bay is used as a nursery by several fish.

There are 4 oyster aquaculture leases in Morro Bay; live fish tanks/markets on the T Piers, and an aquarium along Embarcadero with water intakes. See Economic Section for list and contact information.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Contact SHPO and Native American Heritage Commission

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

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
O	Morro Bay Fish Company	Live fish market	(805) 772-3100
O	Live fish market	Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Warf	(805) 772-8000
E/T	District Office	State Parks & Recreation Dept.	(805) 927-2065
O	William Alden Owner	Tomales Bay Shellfish Farms	(414) 663-1242
O	Jill Baltan Aquaculture food safety	California Department of Health Services	(510) 412-4633
T	Melissa Boggs Environmental Scientist	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 558-1005
E	Eric Endersby Harbor Manager	Morro Bay Harbor Dept	(805) 772-6254
C	Lynn Gamble Historic Info Center	SHPO/UCSB	(805) 893-7341
O	Paul Gillen Marina Operator	State Park Marina	(805) 772-7472
O	Giovanni	Giovanni's (live fish market)	(805) 772-1276
O	Steven Goschke Plant Manager	Dynegy Energy Morro Bay Power Plant	(805) 595-4214
O	Adrienne Harris Director	Morro Bay National Estuary Program	(805) 772-3834
T	Mike Harris Sea otter expert	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 772-1135
O	Brian Hatfield Marine mammal expert	Bio Res Div. USGS	(805) 927-3893
O	Greg Langlois Aquaculture food safety	California Department of Health Services	(510) 412-4635
T	David Ledig Manager	BLM, Coastal Natl. Monument	(831) 630-5006
T	Jenny Marrek Biologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	(805) 644-1766
C	Larry Meyer	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3712
T	Becky Ota	CDFW for MPAs	(650) 631-6789
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
C	SHPO	State Office of Historic Preservation	(916) 445-7000
E/T	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969
O	Tognazzini Live fish market	Tognazzini Dockside Café	(805) 772-8100

O	George Trevelyan Owner	Grassy Bay Oyster Co. Aquaculture Facility	(805) 471-9683
O	Dean, Bertha Tyler	Morro Bay Aquarium	(805) 772-7647
O	Dylan Wade Project Manager	Morro Bay Desalination Plant	(805) 772-6266
O	Cory Wadley Chief	U.S. Coast Guard Morro Bay Station	(805) 772-2167
T	Steve Wertz	CDFW for MPAs	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

4-200 -A Site Strategy - Morro Bay Inlet

County and Thomas Guide Location
611 E-6 San Luis Obispo

NOAA CHART
Estero Bay 18703

4-200 -A
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35.3715 120.86433

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Water intakes for fish markets, desal plant, aquarium, power plant intake and an aquaculture facility in the Bay that may need to be notified in event of a spill -see contacts on Summary Sheet and Economic Section.

Morro Bay is also designated as the Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region.

Wetland Habitat – Mud flats and marshlands contain fragile habitat subject to damage from human activities such as walking and vehicle use. Oil can be trampled into sediments by responders where it will not be recoverable. Avoid walking in mudflats and marshy areas of wetlands and waterways whenever possible. Use skiffs to access response sites if conditions permit. When crews must walk in soft bottom wetland areas to access cleanup sites, restrict the number and size of pathways. Mark authorized pathways with flagging or tape. Place temporary ramps (e.g. plywood sheets) in sensitive marshy areas where heavy use is expected.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-200.1 Objective: STRATEGIES .1 & .2 SHOULD BE THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE; KEEP OIL OUT OF BACK BAY.

Table of Response Resources

Inside channel, west side is permanent anchor bolt in rip rap at N35.36793/W120.86564 (at parking area next to Morro Rock); angle 1500 feet harbor boom from anchor bolt to sandy beach across channel; add secondary piece 100' long harbor boom in shape of upside down "U" at corner (below Rock) to eliminate gap from elevated anchor bolt; SFS skimmer in upsidedown "U" parking area next to Rock can accommodate vacuume truck access. Place secondary piece 1500 feet harbor boom parallel and behind primary harbor boom across channel.

Strategy 4-200.2 Objective: Exclude oil from getting into the back bay.

Place containment boom along rip rap. Strap to rip rap with nylon straps, chains or cable. Angle containment boom, primary and secondary boom, across channel. Anchor booms on sand across channel. Place stationary skimmer.

Strategy 4-200.3 Objective: The following protection strategies at the mouth of Morro Bay Inlet (strategies .1, & .2) should be the first line of defense, and all attempts to keep oil out of the back bay should be made.

If strategies .1 and/or .2 cannot be deployed due to conditions, consider deflection booming to fine-medium grained sandy pocket beaches near inlet to keep oil out of back bay.

Strategy 4-200.5 Objective:

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
4-200.1	3100				6 40 lb	2	1	SFS		6	6
4-200.2	3500				2 40 lb	2	1	SFS		6	
4-200.3											
4-200.5											

LOGISTICS

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

From the south, take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 N, Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo, to Morro Bay Blvd. Exit, go West to Embarcadero St. which turns into Coleman Dr., turn into Coleman Park parking area.

From the north, take Hwy 101 s to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S (or Hwy 5 s to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S), to Main St. Exit, turn right. Right on Beach St. to Embarcadero, turn right and continue as above.

LAND ACCESS:

WATER LOGISTICS: In back bay foot access only; air boat, kayak at high tide

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Morro Bay boat launch
and Services Available:

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

Staging Area: Coleman Park parking lot

Command Post: U.S. Coast Guard office in Morro Bay or CDFW office in San Luis Obispo.

Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 30 min. south. Paso Robles Airport is approx. 45 min. inland.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

