4-230 -A Site Summary- Los Osos Creek Inlet

4-230 -A

		Thomas Guide Location	Latitude N	Longitude W
County:	San Luis Obispo	631 H-3	35.3381	120.8303
USGS Quad:	Morro Bay South	NOAA Chart: Estero Bay 18703		

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Morro Bay Natural Reserve State Park. See Division F map. Los Osos Creek Inlet, subsite within Morro Bay. Provides freshwater to the estuary (one of two creeks). Los Osos Creek supports an assemblage of native fish. Further inland, Los Osos Creek supports dense riparian vegetation, which serves as important habitat for numerous species of birds.

Creek channels through extensive salt marsh area dominated by pickleweed. In some areas of slightly higher ground, the pickleweed is mixed with patches of saltgrass and jaumea. This area is an important shorebird and waterfowl feeding area. Some birds also use the marsh habitat for nesting and resting.

Morro Bay has large expanse of salt marshes, tidal flats, and eel grass beds, one of the most extensive in California. Morro Bay is utilized by over 40 special, threatened, or endangered species. Morro Bay is an integral part of the Pacific Flyway.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Most species which utilize Los Osos Creek are year round residents, however some are seasonal. Red-legged frog breeding season is Nov.-April. Tidewater goby peak nesting in estuary sediments is April-May. Steelhead (critical habitat) peak spawning March - July. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The California Black Rail (endangered) may be found in this area. 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, and the threatened western snowy plover.

Red-legged Frogs (federally threatened) and western pond turtles (species of special concern) can be found in this creek.

Los Osos Creek is habitat to steelhead trout, (threatened species, spawning and nursery habitat), three spined stickleback, prickly sculpin, and tidewater goby (endangered species).

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
E/T	District Office	State Parks & Recreation Dept.	(805) 927-2065
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	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
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
T/E	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969
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:

County and Thomas Guide Location	NOAA CHART	Latitude N	Longitude W
631 H-3 San Luis Obispo	Estero Bay 18703	35.3381	120.8303

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Fish Disturbance - Avoid disturbing bottom lagoon sediments to protect tidewater gobies especially April-July goby nesting season. Upstream is critical habitat for steelhead, peak spawning March - July. If creek conditions allow, boom deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across the creek to position the boom (and fence posts on the bank) to reduce disturbance. Limit disturbing creek to reduce turbidity. Equipment and foot traffic entering wetted areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practical to prevent crushing tidewater gobies, their burrows, and eggs. Any anchors deployed in water should be placed in waters greater than 4 feet deep to avoid crushing tidewater goby burrows. If supplemental water is used to flush recommend gradually increasing the intensity/volume during the flush.

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:

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.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-230.1 Objective: Exclude oil from entering creek

Ta Place sorbent boom at creek mouth staked in place with, for example fence posts. Boom should be placed as close as possible, where the marsh vegetation (pickleweed) ends and the mudflats begin. Tend every tidal cycle. Los Osos Creek Inlet can be accessed by walking along edge of mudflats at low tide, in front of marsh vegetation which can be accessed by foot path at south side of the State Park Marina parking lot. The number o personnel walking on the mudflats should be kept to a minimum. If inlet can't be accessed by walking on edge o mudflats then a path should be set up, after consulting with agencies below, by placing wood, for example, 4x12's on top of marsh vegetation (Pickleweed). Other booming materials should be considered at the time (based on water flow, currents, etc…), I.e. short skirted containment boom, excelsior fencing, sweep boom, or hay bales should be considered.

Check/maintain boom for effectiveness and integrity, overwash, and leakage problems, boom positioning and security, and sorbent replacement as necessary.

Strategy 4-230.2 Objective: : Exclude oil from getting into creek/estuary with containment boom

When creek mouth is open block entrance with a short skirted containment boom at appropriate angle for swift currents and changing tidal influences. When suitable berm materials are unavailable and/or when tidal flows, waterflows, or water depths are too great for berming install exclusion booms near mouth of Inlet/lagoon using short skirted boom and snare boom. Install boom in a configuration/angle which blocks channel and diverts oil to a collection point. If needed, line river/stream bank, rip-rap, side channels, and sandy beaches within lagoon, seaward of the exclusion/containment booms to restrict oil to open water area of main channel to protect vegetated banks and sensitive areas within the inlet/estuary. Use swamp boom backed by sorbent booms, if waters are shallower, and use harbor boom backed by sorbent booms, when water depths are greater. Check/maintain boom for effectiveness and integrity, overwash, and leakage problems, boom positioning and security, and sorbent replacement as necessary.

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	Anchoring type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Skimmers Type	Special Equipment or comment No	Special Equipment or comment and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-230.1				450					1	SSS		Metal stakes	4	
4-230.2	0	450		0	2	Anchor 40 lb	0	0	1	SSS	0		4	4

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 Morro Bay-Hwy 1 exit in San Luis Obispo (turn right onto Santa Rosa St. which is Hwy 1). In Morro Bay take the Morro Bay Blvd. Exit off Hwy 1. Go straight onto Morro Bay Blvd. To Main St. and turn left on Main St. Main St. turns into State Park Rd. Marina/trail to creek is across the street from the golf course on State Park rd. 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), and take the Main St. exit, turn right, off Hwy 1 in Morro Bay. Go through town and Main St. turns into State Park Rd. Morro Bay Natural Reserve State Park.

LAND ACCESS: Foot access only from State Park Marina parking lot; kayak, airboat

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

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

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

Staging Area: State Park Marina 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:


4-230.1
4-230.2
Los Osos Creek Inlet
Los Osos Creek
0 250 500 1,000
Feet
N
CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-230 Name: Los Osos Creek Inlet
G. White (OSPR) & M. Boggs (OSPR) Date: 05/29/2014
Harbor Boom
Swamp Boom
Skimmer
Sorbent Boom
Other Boom
Offshore Containment Recovery
Dike or Berm
Filter Fence
Imagery: NAIP 2010 (Summer) 4-Band