

County: **Ventura**  
 USGS Quad: **Point Mugu (digital)**

Thomas Guide Location  
 583  
 NOAA Chart: **18725(a)**

Latitude N  
 34.10111  
 Longitude W  
 119.09694

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN VENTURA COUNTY DIVISION H: Site bounded by Laguna Pt. to the NW and Pt. Mugu to the SW. Mugu lagoon is the largest wetland in the planning area and is one of the largest coastal wetlands in the state, covering nearly 2,000 acres. The opening to the lagoon migrates and is delineated by a large boulder rip-rap seawall to the west, and a highly dynamic sand spit to the east. Large surf conditions are common and 2 to 4 knot currents should be expected during flood and ebb tides. It has been designated as an area of special significance (ASKS). The lagoon is part of the Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu.

**SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

All year for wetland biota, as the lagoon mouth is never closed. January-June for harbor seals pupping and breeding near mouth. Apr-Sep for California least terns nesting in dunes of outer beach. Mar-Sep for western snowy plovers nesting on upper beach.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

Mugu lagoon is the largest wetland in the planning area and is one of the largest coastal wetlands in the state, covering nearly 2,000 acres. It has been designated as an area of special significance (ASKS).

California least terns (Apr-Sep), Western snowy plovers (Mar-Sep), Light footed clapper rails, Brown pelicans, Belding's savannah sparrow, various seabirds, shorebirds, waterfowl, peregrine falcons and other raptors.

Harbor seals (Mar-Jun) and California sea lions haul out just inside the lagoon. Red-legged frogs are found upstream in the Callegas River.

Tidewater goby, California halibut, Starry flounder, Surfperch, and various species of fishes and invertebrates.

Pismo clams (Jun-Sep).

Salt marsh bird's beak, Eelgrass beds.

**CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**

Cultural, historical, and archeological sites are known to exist at the Naval Base Ventura County, however, the location of this site must be ascertained by, first, contacting Dan Shide, Director of Environmental Division (805) 989-3805. Information may also be found at the Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, and State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000 and the South Central Coastal Information Center (657) 278-5395.

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

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
T	Federally listed T/E species - Ventura Office	USFWS	(805) 644-1766
C	Stacy St. James Coordinator	South Central Coastal Information Center	(657) 278-5395
T	Kai Lampson Marine Biologist	CDFW - (Nearshore Species)	(805) 965-7216
E	Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme Informati	US Navy	(805) 989-1110
E	Naval Security (24hr)	Naval Base Ventura County Point Hueneme	(805) 982-4591
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
E	Martin Ruane Biologist	Naval Base Ventura County (T/E species)	(805) 989-3808
E	Dan Shide Director of Env. Division	Naval Base Ventura County	(805) 989-3805
T	Justin Viezbicke Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service-Stranding Coordi	(562) 506-4315
E	Robert Zaragoza	Naval Base Ventura County - (Spill Program)	(805) 989-3556

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

REFERENCES USED: 1. "CALIFORNIA COASTAL RESOURCE GUIDE" AND "CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACCESS GUIDE" BY THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION. 2. "INVENTORY OF COASTAL WOODLANDS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY". INTERIM REPORT. BY: R. AMBROSE. 1993. 3. "HARBOR SEAL CENSUS IN CALIFORNIA, MAY-JUNE 1992." BY: HANNAN & JONES. 1993. 4. "STATUS OF FISHES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRESERVES TO MAINTAIN THEIR EXISTENCE". BY: CAMM SWIFT, T. HAGLUND, M. RUIZ. 1990. 5. "PROPOSED WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER CRITICAL HABITAT". BY: USFWS - VENTURA FIELD OFFICE. 6. "COASTAL INLET PROTECTION STRATEGIES FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE - VOLUME 1." BY: RESEARCH PLANNING INC. 1993.

# 4-790 -A Site Strategy - Mugu Lagoon

County and Thomas Guide Location  
583 Ventura

NOAA CHART  
18725(a)

# 4-790 -A

Latitude N Longitude W  
34.1011 119.09694

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## CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Primary spill threats from inland and marine sources. The primary objectives are to exclude oil from lagoon, pre-clean debris, and clean oil from shorelines. Several T/E birds inhabit this area. Animals and habitat can be injured by oil and response/cleanup activities unless responders minimize disturbance in lagoon, and associated vegetation; avoid disturbing the dunes and upper beaches; drive vehicles on wet sand; avoid trampling oil into sediments; and follow protective conditions from IC and resource biologists.

## HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

A. Water Contamination - Unhealthy levels of coliform bacteria have been found intermittently in streams and on beaches in this area. Check with the County of Ventura, Ocean Monitoring Hotline, 805-662-6555, regarding health conditions prior to engaging in any activities which would require direct water contact. Use appropriate PPE, safety procedures, and include reference to potential health problems in any site safety plan.

B. Beach Safety Considerations - Beware of people and animals on the beach, pedestrians, waves, slips, trips and falls, and water hazards. Safe entries and exits from shorelines and facilities in and around the beach are related to tides, sea conditions, and beach sand levels. When using a vehicle on the beach, sand surface is soft and YOU MAY GET STRANDED ON THE BEACH. The lagoon shore is mud and should not be driven on.

## SITE STRATEGIES

This is a large natural inlet which cannot be closed off by berm or boom. The lagoon mouth is deep, narrow, and the tidal flood current is very swift. A spill from an offshore source must be stopped before it enters the lagoon by using open water recovery methods; or inside the entrance where currents slow. Spills from an inland source must be contained as close to the source as possible.

Strategy 4-790.1 Objective: Booming - Deploy exclusion booms inside the lagoon to protect sensitive species and habitats by preventing oil from spreading throughout the estuary.

A. Deploy exclusion booms across channels at the 11th St. bridge and at the channel just northeast of the entrance to the lagoon. Place the boom in a configuration which forms an oil collection pocket which can be adjusted to accommodate changes in flow direction. Back exclusion boom with sorbent boom to minimize leakage. If there is skimmable oil present, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers and or other mechanical means for collecting oil. Monitor, adjust, and replace booms at least twice a day to maintain their integrity and effectiveness.

B. Wherever possible, line the shorelines and small side channels within the lagoon with a combination of harbor boom and shore boom to prevent oil from spreading throughout the estuary. Back exclusion boom with sorbent boom to minimize leakage. Use additional sobents to collect any oil that collects in these areas. Monitor, adjust, and replace booms at least twice a day to maintain their integrity and effectiveness.

Strategy 4-790.2 Objective: Shoreline Precleaning - Prevent oiling of wrack, trash, and other materials to reduce collateral contamination and disposal problems.

Shoreline Precleaning - Consult with resource trustees regarding wildlife issues before undertaking this activity. Hand crews to move and store kelp, driftwood, vegetative debris, trash, and other materials above high-tide line. Dispose of trash. Replace unoiled debris in its former location once the threat of oiling is past. If heavy equipment is required for this operation, request trustee consultation and IC for authorization.

## Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	Boat type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Special Equipment or comment	staff deploy	Staff tend	
4-790.1	1500		1000 shore	3000	40	10 screw anchors/ 30 fortress	2	2	1	3	1 Waste Bin (20 yd), 1 Portable Oil Storage Tank, 1 Vac Truck	10	4
4-790.2										203	2- Vehicle (4wd), 200 Trash Bags, 1 Hand Tools	5	

## LOGISTICS

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

Going southbound US 101, exit #60/Rice Rd in Oxnard for 0.3 mi, turn right on Rice Rd for 4.1 mi, continue on Hwy 1 for 3.5 mi, exit Wood Rd for 0.2 mi, turn left onto Naval Air Rd for 0.5 mi, turn right into NBVC Point Mugu.

Going northbound US 101, exit #55/Las Posas Rd in Camarillo for 0.2 mi, turn left on Las Posas Rd for 7.7 mi, turn right at Naval Air Rd for 1.0 mi, turn left into NBVC Point Mugu. THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN VENTURA COUNTY DIVISION H:

### LAND ACCESS:

Access for foot traffic, ATV, 4-WD, and heavy equipment on beach. Keep below high tide line on wet sand, keep vehicle speed under 5mph, and maintain radio communication with all vehicles on beach. All beach access will be approved by IC under recommendation from agency resource biologist. The lagoon shore is mud and depending on the tides may not be drivable.

### WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: In the northern portion of the area (Seacliff to McGrath State Beach) contact Ventura Harbor for full service berthing, launching, and fueling. For sites south of CIH, Port of Hueneme and

Channel Islands Harbor (CIH) both support full service berth, launching, and fueling.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:**

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

Due to the probable occurrence of Snowy plovers and/or Least terns at this site, please review the Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategies (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with these sensitive species.

