



Office of Spill Prevention and Response

Sensitive Site Strategy Evaluation Program

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response manages the Sensitive Site Strategy Evaluation Program (SSSEP), a statewide program that tests and evaluates the effectiveness of oil spill response strategies that are designed to protect sensitive coastal and estuarine resources.

These biological resources, organized into environmentally-sensitive sites include protected populations of:

- Birds
- Marine mammals
- Fish
- Invertebrates
- Other wildlife
- Habitat used for breeding, nesting, and feeding.

Sensitive sites

There are more than 600 environmentally-sensitive sites along California's coast, which are identified in the Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) discussed below. Examples of these sites include salt-marsh, wetlands, estuaries, lagoons, eelgrass beds and other habitats supporting wildlife and plant species of concern.

- Each site is described and resources at risk listed, including information about habitat and threatened or endangered species.
- When feasible, each site has a response strategy (or strategies) detailing the most effective method and equipment for protecting the site.
- When applicable, each site has a response strategy diagram showing configuration of equipment used to protect the site in the event of an oil spill.

Area Contingency Plans

The federal marine ACPs result from the statutes (Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and Senate Bill 2040) enacted in consequence of the catastrophic oil spills of 1989-90 in Alaska and California, which required contingency planning by federal and state governments. The U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the Office of Spill Prevention and Response agreed to joint preparation of six contingency plans. The ACP acts as a guide during oil spill emergencies to specify response actions and contains information for protection of environmentally sensitive sites, including key stakeholders to contact for sites within each of California's three major USCG port areas.



Located within these three port areas are six ACPs:

[Port Area: Sector San Francisco](#)

1. North Coast
2. San Francisco Bay and Delta
3. Central Coast

[Port Area: Los Angeles/Long Beach](#)

4. Los Angeles/Long Beach North
5. Los Angeles/Long Beach South

[Port Area: San Diego](#)

6. San Diego

Boom is one type of equipment used to protect against spilled oil. It is a plastic protective barrier that floats on top of the water and helps contain floating oil or exclude oil from sensitive areas. Boom comes in different sizes and types.

[Common types of boom are:](#)

- Containment boom
- Harbor boom
- Sorbent boom
- Swamp boom
- Filter fence boom

Factors that affect deployed equipment are:

- Tides
- Currents
- Sea state
- Weather conditions

The SSSEP program consists of scheduled exercises designed to test the site-specific response strategies and familiarize the contracted Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs), other authorized responders, and local stakeholders with the locations and strategic details of the sites. As part of the SSSEP testing program, OSPR provides recommendations to modify and improve the strategy if needed – a critical part of their work during a field test. These improvements are incorporated into the ACPs.

Information on sensitive sites, ACPs and the program can be found on OSPR's website at

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR>

1-310-A Site Diagram - North Humboldt Bay 1-310-A



North Humboldt Bay - response site diagram

