Del Mar Landing

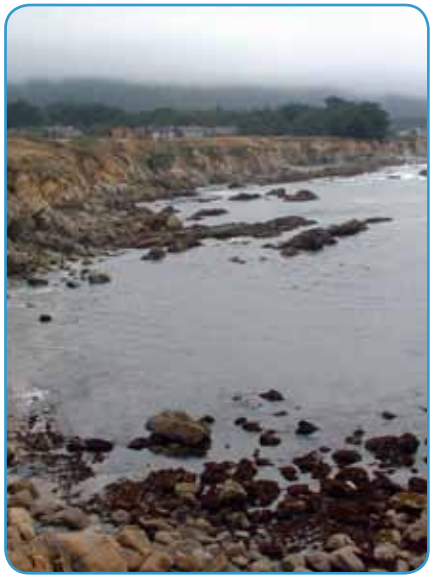
AREA OF SPECIAL BIOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

MEDIUM LEVEL OF HIGH THREAT DISCHARGE

Area of Special Biological Significance = Zero Pollution Discharge

In the 1970s, to preserve biologically unique and sensitive marine ecosystems for future generations, California designated 34 regions along the coast as Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). These areas support an unusual variety of aquatic life, and are important building blocks for a sustainable, resilient coastal environment and economy. Although the State Water Board's Ocean Plan prohibits all waste discharges into these areas, pollution continues to damage these important habitats.

With YOUR help, California Coastkeeper Alliance is working to ensure important marine ecosystems are protected from pollution.



Del Mar Landing modifies the pre-existing Del Mar Ecological Reserve to better protect nearshore finfish and abalone as well as their habitat. Photo SWRCB.

Del Mar Landing encompasses more than a half mile of beautiful coastline and 53 acres of marine waters near Gualala, in Sonoma County. Tide pools and beaches in the area are rich in marine life, and the coastal cliffs provide a vantage point for spotting harbor seals and migrating whales. The watershed area immediately adjacent to this ASBS is a part of Sea Ranch private community, which includes several homes and a walking trail along the coastline.

Tide pools and small beaches in the area are rich in marine life, and coastal cliffs provide a vantage point for watching harbor seals and migrating whales.

Del Mar Landing ASBS overlaps with Del Mar Landing State Marine Park. This is a type of marine protected area (MPA) established by the Fish and Game Commission to protect and preserve aquatic life. Visit: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/northcentralhome.asp for more information.

Pollution

The State Water Board has determined that despite protection under California law, Del Mar Landing is contaminated with pesticides, bacteria, and pathogens from residential runoff, road runoff, and septics. These contaminants threaten water quality and can harm fish and wildlife.

One Threat and Solution: Residential Runoff

One pollution source that particularly threatens the Del Mar Landing ASBS is polluted stormwater that runs off paved surfaces. In housing developments, rainwater washes over streets, parking lots and roofs, picking up a potentially toxic mixture of oil, dirt, trash, metals and fertilizers. Storm drains funnel polluted stormwater directly to natural waterways, where it can cause beach closures and poison aquatic plants and animals, particularly in sensitive marine ecosystems like ASBSs.

By incorporating Low Impact Development (LID) techniques into neighborhood designs, many surfaces such as rooftops, streetscapes, parking lots, sidewalks, and medians can work with nature to filter polluted stormwater. For example, streetscapes can be constructed to funnel stormwater into landscaped elements called bio-swales that capture and filter rainwater. Native plants in the bio-swales create habitat and naturally remove silt and pollution from stormwater before reaching the ocean.

Learn More

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/asbs_map.shtml
http://www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/clean-abundant/stormwater-runoff

Pollution Threats At A Glance

- **Number of High Threat Discharges: 4**
- **State Board Identified Contaminants: Pesticides, Bacteria, and Pathogens**
- **Pollution Sources: Residential runoff, road runoff, and septics**

Pollution data compiled from the State Water Resources Control Board.