



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SAFETY ZONE BULLETIN FOR BOATERS, AVIATORS, FISHERMEN

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US COAST GUARD, NOAA TO CONDUCT LIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRILL OFF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST IN MONTEREY, FARALLONES SANCTUARY WATERS

The U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA and the State of California's Office of Spill Prevention and Response will be conducting a live real-time emergency response drill, dubbed "Safe Seas" on Wednesday, Aug. 9 in Monterey and Farallones National Marine Sanctuary waters off the central California coast west of San Francisco.

DETAILS: Recreational boaters, private aviators and recreational and commercial fishermen are asked to be aware that both boat and aerial activities are part of the drill and that the U.S. Coast Guard will implement one-mile safety zones around the oil spill drill activities west of San Francisco.

The drill will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 9 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The public is asked to stay one nautical mile away from drill activities located at latitude 37degrees, 39.0 minutes North and longitude 122 degrees, 38.0 minutes West (37°39.0' N, 122° 38.0'W). (Map on Website) Anyone in the vicinity of the drill is asked to monitor marine Channels 16 and 82A and/or NOAA All-Hazards Radio for information during the day.

Should salmon be found in the exact area planned for the drill, drill location may be shifted by one to two nautical miles to avoid impacts with the current commercial salmon fishing season.

The public may see biodegradable yellow, orange and green wood drift cards (image available on web) in the vicinity of the drill. Drift cards represent a portion of spilled oil and are used to facilitate modeling of ocean currents and where the oil might be headed. If you find a drift card please do not return to the water but follow the directions on the card for reporting the location where it was found.

Aviators are reminded that there are additional permanent, year-round Federal restrictions on wildlife disturbance in this area. Seabirds and marine mammals are federally protected, and disturbance of this wildlife can result in citation and fines for individuals and organizations. It is prohibited to use an aircraft to harass any wildlife which means to "disturb, worry, molest, rally, concentrate, harry, chase, drive, herd or torment" (CFR 922.132). The coastal area adjacent to the drill is the site of several sensitive wildlife habitats, including a seabird colony restoration project.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Visit Safe Seas drill Web site: <http://www.safeseas.noaa.gov>

BACKGROUND:

The "Safe Seas 2006" emergency response drill will be held Aug. 7-10 in waters off California's central coast adjoining San Francisco Bay. More than 250 total personnel are participating, including representatives from NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, other state trustees, and oil and marine transportation industry representatives. It will be the largest such emergency drill to date, and will include technology and personnel from the response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The Safe Seas 2006 exercise design focuses on the marine collision of a bulk freight cargo ship *M/V Blue Harp* inbound to San Francisco from Long Beach, with the outbound tug *Earnest Campbell*, towing the tank barge *Dottie*, en route to Los Angeles. The barge sinks from the collision, with oil spilling from both the barge and damaged cargo ship. The pollutants spilled during this exercise will be simulated by the release of thousands of drift cards, which are designed to model floating pollutants at the site of the hypothetical collision and sinking. Using this scenario, the Safe Seas 2006 exercise will bring together federal, state, and local responders in order to increase response readiness to a large oil spill in a National Marine Sanctuary in central California.

THIS IS A DRILL

Safe Seas 2006

THIS IS A DRILL

Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries

Base Map

Created by NOAA

USE ONLY AS A GENERAL REFERENCE

Date/Time:

Platform:

Observers:

