

APPENDIX C:

SITE ASSESSMENTS

Humboldt Bay Water Trails Project

September 2008

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Priority Key		Access Features	Parking	Amenities	Signage	Site Values; Opportunities; Notes	Constraints; "minuses"	Recommendations																													
H = Hi priority for imprvments, now (H) = Hi priority if publicly accessibl. M = Worth working on for future L = Low priority - = No priority																																					
SITE (Some site names have been made-up for i.d. purposes)	Tentative Priority	Public Property? (Who)	General Boat Dock	Boat Ramp	Dock w/Paddle-boat features	Unimproved Launch	Access by boat only	Good low tide access	None	Paved	Dirt or Sand	Gravel	Unofficial	(Est.) Current # spaces	Road shoulder or r/w	ADA	Indoor toilets	Portable toilets	ADA toilets	Picnic tables	Bench(es)	Trash receptacles	Water	Camping	Interpretive Facility	Boat Security	Services (food, etc...)	Showers	Water Trail Icon	Safety & Regulatory	Bay Map	Interpretive	Roadway sign	* There are boat-access only sites around the bay that were not included in this assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many sites around the bay look like good access at high tide, but are not as soon as the tide lowers. • Many general issues are addressed in the draft Water Trails Program report, such as potential conflicts with other users, safety issues, private property concerns, etc. 	These are some initial, draft recommendations (and questions). • Reviewers please correct any errors and add your opinions to this entire chart!!	
Freshwater Creek at Three Corners	M				X	X																												Access to/from one of the longer paddleable slough channels, often freshwater at this end.	Private property. Freshwater Farms owner may be interested in providing access across his property.		
Butcher's Slough	M	ARC			X	X																												The creek channel has water for small boats even at low tide. Only low tide access in Arcata. Near Marsh Interp. facilities.	Awkward to get to site; footbridge is barrier at hi tide; pipe is at low tide. Access below pipe would be at the treatment works - tight space, liability issues?, saltmarsh impacts..		
Bracut Marsh Area	M	EK? Priv			X	X				X	X																							Washington Sl. channel has water at low tide. Unique access to east side of bay, inc. area along Bracut Marsh.	Access is across private property (Mill Yard). Site is bleak and lots of highway noise.	Would need public access; improve aesthetics; enhance low-tide access? Talk to owners, etc.	
Liscom Slough at Jackson Ranch Rd.	L	HC?			X	X			X	X	2	X																						Provides access to a small slough channel and beyond to Mad R. slough. One of only a few vehicle-accessible sites on Mad R. Slough.	Road r/w is only public property, very limited parking room, surrounded by private property.		
Jacoby Creek at Hwy. 101	-	FWS					X																											The creek channel has water at low tide.	Sensitive fish & wildlife (estuary) and poor access to/from Hwy 101.		
Eureka Area																																					
Woodley Island Marina	H	HBHRCD	X				X		X		50	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Facilities, amenities, lots of boating activity, and wildlife area make the Island a good destination for boaters. Humboats, the only waterside boat rental/lessons provider, is located here.	There is no area formally designated for paddle boat docking or access. No easy launch sites. (Transient berths 10 & 11 on Dock D are available, but not specifically for paddle boaters)	On the shore side of several docks, add step-down dock additions, cleats and grab rails. Appropriate signage. Create a paddle boat launch site.
Eureka Marina	H	EKA	X	X			X		X		50	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Full marina amenities. Fully-accessible land-to-dock ramp. Potential future access point to/from Samoa waterfront.	No specific provisions for paddle boaters.	Identify locations for step-down dock additions that don't conflict with other boats. Disabled access improvements? Signage.
Samoa Bridge Boat Launch	H	EKA	X	X			X		X		50	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Good access to Waterfront, Islands, Arcata Bay.	Could use paddle-boat improvements to dock; aesthetic improvements to overall site.	Integrate with planning for uses of adjacent sites.
Elk River at Hilfiker Lane	H	EKA			X	X	X	X			20																							Great access to Elk River Wildlife area, Samoa Peninsula, etc. Nice beach launch.		Signage, delineate parking, improve site aesthetics, integrate with trail project.	
End of Park Street	M	County?																																			
Bonnie Gool Dock	M	EKA	X				X		n		30	?									X	X													Primarily a dock for visiting boats; only ADA ramp on the bay; restrooms nearby at Adorni Center.	Moderate carry to/from parking (somewhat easier vehicle access to Adorni Dock nearby.) Ramp switchbacks make carrying a boat on ramp difficult.	Physical improvements for paddle boaters on shore-side of dock, including disabled access; signage.
Adorni Center Dock	M	EKA		X			X		X		10	?	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Nice hand-launch only dock; good inner reach location.		Add hand holds and places to tie boats to. Signage.
Proposed Aquatic Center at Foot of J St.	?	?			?		?																											Center Activities, a non-profit org., plans to build an aquatics center here. Potentially an extensive paddle boat dock, amenities.	Will public access be made available?	Work with Center Activities and City of Eureka	
Eureka Boardwalk (under construction)	?	EKA	?	?			?																											Boardwalk project is opportunity to design appropriate paddle boat access; close to Old Town.	Depends on what can be incorporated into boardwalk project	Active involvement with City and boardwalk development. Could include cables for boaters visiting Old Town to lock boats to.	
Eureka Slough Boat Ramp (Target site)	M	EKA?	X						X		7																								Only official access to the Sloughs; only ramp. Bleak site, but functional. May be important to hunters and small motor boats. Plenty of parking!	Unattractive site; next to noisy freeway. Muddy at low tide.	Integrate water access w/other uses of area. Improve paddle boat access, aesthetics, move away from 101?. What is City property? Blue Ox site could be a better alternative.
Blue Ox Millworks Area	M																																		Blue Ox Millworks Historical Park/old fishing village = fascinating access point/destination. Rich in natural and cultural history. Potential access to Slough and Waterfront.	Private property; Blue Ox does not have waterfront property; mud at low tides.	Work with City and with Blue Ox, they are interested.
Truesdale Av. Vista Point	M	EKA		X	?		X	X	10																										Easy access to Bay; some firm beach.	Mud at low tide.	Possible secondary site to Hilfiker Ln. site? Perhaps a sign/map directing boaters to other
Elk River at Pine Hill Road	M	DFG		X	?		X		3	X																									Good access to Elk River Slough upper channel.	Sensitive wildlife resources?	Work with DFG to assess potential for access development
Ryan Slough at Myrtle Avenue	M	HC?		X	X		X	X	10	?																									Opportunity for sheltered access to the Sloughs. Informal parking area at NE side of bridge.		Possible informal aesthetic and function improvements to delineate parking, "trail" to water (steep and narrow at present).
Indian Island	M	? Priv				X																												Boaters are drawn to the Island - egret rookery, small channels, history. Access varies depending on tides; not much solid ground.	Sensitive natural and cultural resources constrain access development.	IS there potential to develop appropriate access? How should it be shown on a guide map? "keep off"? Signage?	

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South Bay Area																																		Recommendations			
	Field's Landing Boat Ramp	H	HC	X	X			X		X				25	X	X	X			X															Existing public access with ramp and dock, to South Bay and HBNWR.		Paddle-boat improvements could be made; water trail signage; improve site aesthetics.
	Hookton Slough Boat Dock	H	FWS	X	X			X			X			20	X	X	X					X													Easy access to a uniquely wild area of the Bay, away from highway and urban noise. Access to Hookton Sl., the Wildlife Refuge, the south shoreline of the bay and south spit, and the South Bay in general. Good parking, interp. info, good dock with step-down section for small boats.	At lowest tides, ramp is very steep, and dock doesn't reach channel.	Paddle-boat improvements could be made; water trail signage
	South Spit (beach at north end)	(H)	BLM +			X	X			X	X																							Low tide access to/from sandy beaches. Destination from other sides of Bay; future visitors to the Spit might bring boats. Camping?	Sensitive plants & animal species, esp. snowy plover. Access may need to be limited in space and time.	Work with BLM to integrate paddle boat access with South Spit planning and management.	
	End of Buhne Dr. in King Salmon	(H)	?	X	?	X	X		X	X	X	X		20	?																			Sandy, sheltered beach adjacent to Gill's restaurant. Access to King Salmon Channels, South Spit, HBNWR. Private marina.	Is there formal public access?	Need to assess ownership/public access. Signage, delineate parking, improve aesthetics.	
	Southport Landing	(H)				X																											Physically an easy access to a part of the bay and shoreline seldom seen. Gravel road to water's edge, firm beach substrate. Historical shipping access; old buildings. B&B is a destination.	Private property (bed & breakfast inn). Long way to water at low tides.	Work with landowner re potential for access, perhaps at least for special events, boat-to-BnB access, provide boats at BnB...		
	Slough nr. College of the Redwoods	-	CR			X	X																											Intriguing potential access from CR to Bay and HBNWR.	Only 1-2' clearance in a long Highway 101 box culvert at higher tides. RR x-ing also.	In the long term/big picture: Replace 101 slough culvert with a bridge that allows for passage underneath.	