

APPENDIX E:

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESULTS

Humboldt Bay Water Trails Project

September 2008

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Prepared for the State Coastal Conservancy



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survey title:

Paddle Boat Access Site Amenities Edit Title design survey collect responses analyze results

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Page #1 Edit Page Copy

1. Humboldt Bay Paddle Boat Access Site Survey

This survey is intended to inform RCAA's Natural Resources Services (N division of the paddle boating community's preferences regarding launch located around Humboldt Bay.

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1. Why do you choose a particular access site to put-in/take-out? (Check all apply)

- Proximity to home
- Safest launch
- Near parking
- Good low tide access
- Fresh water
- Near restrooms
- Interpretive signs
- Hours of access availability
- Most scenic
- Type of launch (dock, boat ramp, etc)

Other (please specify)

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2. Which of these amenities is most important to you? (Forced Ranking: 1 = important, 10 = least important; can not rank two amenities the same!)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 1

- Toilets
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Trash receptacles
- Fresh water
- Boat wash water
- Camping
- Boat security
- Fish cleaning station
- Showers
- Services (food, etc)
- Directional signage
- Roadway signage
- Other (please specify)

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3. Dock Design: Answer the following questions: what should be present in a design?

Answer in FEET: Enter MINIMUM width of dock

Answer in FEET: MINIMUM length of dock

Answer in INCHES: MAXIMUM height from water

YES or NO: ADA Access

YES or NO: Cleats

YES or NO: Floating step down feature

YES or NO: Handrails

YES or NO: Stationary step down feature

4. What type of information do you think MUST be present on any signage at access site? 1 = most important, 5 = least important.

1 2 3 4

Boating etiquette and laws

Tide information

Weather information

Site-specific flora/fauna
and sensitive species

Nearby sites of interest

Paddle boat safety tips

Site-specific safety tips

Water trails/navigation map

Other (please specify)

5. Help us design Water Trail Access Site Signage!

There has been considerable interest in a unifying structure, sculpture, or sign that would be visible from the water at each site to help boaters identify put-in/take-out points along Humboldt Bay. What sort of design or concept would you like to see?

6. What have we missed? Please tell give us your comments, concerns, criticisms and/or praise here.

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7. OPTIONAL: If you would like to be included in future meetings or would like to reply to questions you had regarding this survey or the project, please leave contact information and we'll gladly include you!

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Water Trails Implementation Plan

Survey Monkey Results

Humboldt Bay Water Trails Program Phase I: Online Survey Results

25 Respondents

1. Why do you choose a particular access site to put-in/take-out? (Check all that apply)

	Percent	Response Count
Near parking	68%	17
Type of launch (dock, boat ramp, beach, etc)	68%	17
Most scenic	60%	15
Safest launch	52%	13
Near restrooms	40%	10
Proximity to home	36%	9
Hours of access availability	36%	9
Good low tide access	28%	7
Fresh water	4%	1
Interpretive signs	4%	1

OTHER

- 1 Safe place to leave unattended vehicle, trailer or boat.
- 2 Somewhat near parking and restrooms--depends on how far and if there are big bushes nearby!
- 3 ADA type accessibility issues Access to areas without nearby put-ins highly valued
- 4 Depends on tides, wind, water conditions as much as access.
- 5 quality of the water...both in terms of clarity but also in terms of texture. I prefer it to be clean and active (as in swells or waves).
- 6 access to most desirable water routes
- 7 I am an adaptive kayak instructor and I look for launch sites with acceptable disabled access.

2. Which of these amenities is most important to you? (Forced Ranking: 1 = most important, 10 = least important; can not rank two amenities the same!)

	Ranked	Response Count
Toilets	1	22
Boat Security	2	21
Camping	3	22
Roadway Signage	3	18
Picnic Tables	4	20
Benches	5	21
Trash Receptacles	6	22
Directional Signage	7	19
Showers	9	20
Boat Wash Water	10	20
Services	10	19
Fresh Water	11	19
Fish Cleaning Station	13	20

OTHER

- 1 As you have probably figured out, survey won't let you rank multiple items w/ same ranking so: Benches 9; fresh water 2; boat wash water 9; showers 8; directional signage 3; roadway signage 3
- 2 Handicap assistance features would rank extremely high, e.g. railings installed on floating docks and ramps, hand-holds in strategic places, etc.
- 3 This area of the survey has bugs. I did not complete it.
- 4 Dock
- 5 Impossible to choose the same number. If that were possible, my answers would be a bit different. Signage and toilets are the most important.
- 6 Launch ramp or dock
- 7 The toilet thing: I know how to, and I teach Leave No Trace (LNT) and Pack it In Pack it Out, but unfortunately there are many others who do not follow these practices. Toilets and garbage disposal are important for the mass general public who might leave human waste on the ground. Parking is also important and I did not see it on the list above.
- 8 easy access this section isn't working properly, limited in choosing

3. Dock Design: Answer the following questions: what should be present in any dock design?

	Y	N	N/A
ADA Access	15	5	3
Cleats	17	6	1
Hand Rails	5	14	1
Stationary Step Down	4	13	2
Floating Step Down Feature	14	7	

Minimum Dock Width	FT	Response Count
	6	6
	4	5
	8	5
	5	4
	10	1
	12	1
	N/A	1

Water Trails Implementation Plan

Survey Monkey Results

Minimum Dock Length	FT	Response Count
	20	9
	30	3
	12	2
	40	2
	N/A	2
	15	1
	24	1
	25	1

Maximum Height from	INCHES	Response Count
	12	10
	24	3
	10	2
	18	2
	N/A	2
	6	1
	8	1
	9	1

4. What type of information do you think MUST be present on any signage at an access site? 1 = most important, 5 = least important.

Tide info	1
Site specific flora/fauna & sensitive spp	1
Site-specific safety tips	1
Water trails/navigation map	1
Boating etiquette and laws	2
Weather info	2.5
Nearby sites of interest	3
Paddle boat safety tips	3

OTHER

1 most sites signs that don't need daily changing

2 Tide and weather are important, but very costly to keep current. Flora and fauna should be for caution/protection messages (such as "leave seal pups alone")

3 Any weather information should be general with emphasis that it is the boater's responsibility to be aware of current weather reports.

4 With regard to tide information...I don't think we need to have the actual tides. But something explaining the importance of knowing and the dangers of the mud-flats if you don't know the tides.

5 Information on local paddling clubs and outfitters

6 Everything I gave less than a 1 to are things people should know before boating anyway, but unfortunately they usually don't.

7 suggested side of launch for power versus non power boats.

8 SEASON INFO ON THINGS LIKE: DUCK HUNTING, NESTING, AND MIGRATORY INFORMATION.

5. Help us design Water Trail Access Site Signage! There has been considerable interest in a unifying structure, sculpture, or sign that would be visible from the water at each site to help boaters identify put-in/take-out points along Humboldt Bay. What sort of design or concept would you like to see?

- 1 Something that is distinctive of our area, blends with the natural background, but is still readily visible. Incorporation of a sculpture (perhaps a shorebird?) would be distinctive and could blend.
- 2 Depends on how "busy" you'd like the signage. It could be as simple as a paddle or paddler in kayak or canoe, or be detailed showing a paddler on the water. Should be simple, identifiable graphic that is easy to spot from a distance. What comes to mind are the Tsunami-zone signs one sees in Oregon--simple yet effective graphic & text.
- 3 Perhaps it would be nice to consider incorporating a device/light that would help with navigating a return in poor/dark conditions.
- 4 ?
- 5 Big and colorful with a neat logo. Have a contest for school kids to design a logo.
- 6 the main importance is to let people know of the tides, and area specific dangers
- 7 haven't thought about this in a long time. There should be some sort of identifying logo on all signage with a map of the bay and all launch sites. The name of the specific launch site should be easily seen. It would be nice to be able to see it at low light or night(solar lighting?)
I like wood (reclaimed redwood?) more than plastic although it's harder to maintain. If you need some volunteers for this, I would love to help.
- 8 I like the idea, but no strong opinion. Should be simple, easy to recognize.
- 9 Make signage positive and constructive whenever possible. Signs with many bold NOs, DON'Ts are a turn off.
- 10 Small, recognizable sign. Minimal display.
- 11 At least ten feet tall, contrasting colors from nature background, flexible to withstand wind, vandal proof, Large lettering (most paddlers are over 50 years old, poor vision)
- 12 I'll leave this for someone else!
- 13 May I submit a design? A simple graphic line-drawn logo in one or two colors. Something that can easily be replicated and is easy to identify from afar.
- 14 "You are here" map with other sites noted Low tide warnings Current warnings
- 15 IF IT'S TO BE VISIBLE FROM THE WATER, THEN A STRIKING, SIMPLE GRAPHIC IN A BRIGHT COLOR.

6. What have we missed? Please tell give us your comments, concerns, criticisms, and/or praise here.
- 1 Maps of all the trails, put-ins, campgrounds and services available would be nice.
 - 2 Sorry for my hurried response, I only just got to this and it is almost 8 pm Fri eve. Would be great to be part of this as time allows; I rarely make it to the ENC meetings because of the work-a-day world obligations. Thanks for taking the time to do this.
 - 3 Any improvements for pathways at put-ins would be welcome (facilitate transport of kayaks on wheels or sliding over sand) and praise be to you all
 - 4 Would it be possible to retrofit an old barge into a floating boat-in camp site - or several
 - 5 I thank you for asking for input. Your previous site survey did need to be reexamined. As a member of the paddling community and a past board member of Explore North Coast, I would like to thank you for all you do.
 - 6 Great initiative.
 - 7 Boat in camping only. Eco camping.
 - 8 Priority locations: Mad River Slough, Eureka Slough by the Target store and also Three Corners (Freshwater) Somoa at the County Park (Add tent camping)
 - 9 Thank you for requesting input from the community. You are doing a wonderful job. I am speaking on behalf of a kayaker/canoist. I'm not sure how my needs differ from other craft such as small motorized water craft or birders etc. Thanks again for listening Larry
 - 10 Praise= thank you so much for asking! 1- Most ADA approved ramps to docks have too many switchbacks to be able to carry a kayak or canoe down them. 2- Most marinas have floating docks that are too high for kayaks and canoes. 3- The floating dock needs to be long enough to set a sea kayak down upon before placing it in the water. 4- I still have this crazy idea that we can anchor a barge in the North Bay and turn it into an island with sand, a vault toilet, and campsites. It could then be part of a water trails camping system. A water trails association could be created to raise funds and maintain the site. 5- The CEED hostel planned for Halvorsen Park would be an ideal site for some water trails campsites as would the town of Samoa.
 - 11 Need more floating docks, ie, type of dock by the Adorni Center. Easier and safer to put in kayaks. For example the docks designated kayaks over on Woodley are to high off the water.
 - 12 IS IT POSSIBLE TO PUT SOME SORT OF MINI CHANNEL MARKERS IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH BAYS? JUST SOME STICKS WITH RED OR GREEN OR SOMETHING THAT WE CAN NAVIGATE BY. IT'S REALLY HARD TO SEE AND FOLLOW THE CHANNELS FROM THE VANTAGE OF A KAYAK, AND WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO BREAK THE SECRET CODE OF THE STICKS THAT ARE OUT THERE. IF YOU PURSUE PARKING, PLEASE CONSIDER PERMEABLE SURFACES (GRASS-PAVE FOR EXAMPLE) VS. ASPHALT. THANKS FOR KEEPING THIS PROJECT MOVING FORWARD!

7. OPTIONAL: If you would like to be included in future meetings or would like us to reply to questions you had regarding this survey or the project, please leave us your contact information and we'll gladly include you!

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