



Oregon Coordinated Aquatic Bird Monitoring:
Description of Important Aquatic Bird Site

Tillamook Bay
BCS number: 47-36

Site description author(s)

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Site location (UTM)

Datum: NAD83, Zone: 10, Easting: 427942, Northing: 5040766

General description

“Tillamook Bay is a small, shallow estuary about 60 miles west of Portland on the Oregon Coast. It is approximately 6.2 miles long and 2.1 miles wide. The bay averages only 6.6 feet in depth over a total area of 13 square miles, or 8,400 acres. At low tide, about 50% of the estuary bottom is exposed as intertidal mud flats. The Bay receives fresh water input from five rivers and exchanges ocean water through a single channel in the northwest corner. The estuary provides habitat for numerous fish, shellfish, crabs, birds, seals, and sea grasses.” (National Audubon Society 2010)

This bay is fed into from 5 major tributaries: Miami River, Kilchis River, Wilson River, Trask River, and Tillamook River.

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

It is located just north of Cape Meares and south of Garibaldi in western Tillamook County. It occupies the estuarine space between the Pacific coast and the Oregon Coast Hwy 101

Ownership:

Unknown

Water levels

The bay is tidally influenced. Tillamook Bay is subject to more seasonal flooding from the 5 major rivers that enter its system. Fluctuations in water levels can be extreme based upon the tides or ocean/river flooding.

Focal species use and timing

Please indicate Presence/Absence/Unknown for each species and section of annual cycle. If you feel like adding another guild or species that is important to the area and warrants more interest, indicate it in the blank spaces at the bottom.

Focal Group/Species	Wintering	Breeding	Migration
Secretive Marsh Bird Group	Present	Present	Unknown
Colonial Nesting Bird Group	Present	Present	Unknown
Migrating Shorebird Group	Present	Unknown	Present
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Present	Unknown	Unknown
American Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
American White Pelican	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Barrow's Goldeneye	Present	Unknown	Unknown
Black Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black-crowned Night Heron	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black-necked Stilt	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Bufflehead	Present	Present	Unknown
California Gull	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Clark's Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Common Loon	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Dusky Canada Goose	Present	Unknown	Unknown
Eared Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Forster's Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Franklin's Gull	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Great Blue Heron	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Greater Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Unknown	V. Rarely
Green Heron	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Least Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Lesser Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Long-billed Curlew	V. Rarely	Unknown	Present
Pied-billed Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Red-necked Grebe	Present	Unknown	Unknown
Snowy Egret	Present	Unknown	Unknown
Sora	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Upland Sandpiper	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Virginia Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Western Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Western Snowy Plover	Present (beach)	v. Rarely (beach)	Unknown
White-faced Ibis	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Yellow Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Location of Type 1 and 2 habitat within the site

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
Ground Based Aquatic Birds	Unknown	Open water
Secretive Marsh Birds	Emergent wetland	Unknown
Colonial Nesters	Emergent wetland	Open water
Migrating Shorebirds	Intertidal mudflats	Open water

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

Briefly describe challenging aspects of accessing bird habitat., e.g. the road to aspen lake has not been graded for many years, 4WD is recommended. Or access by boat only
Unknown

Audibility/visibility of focal species

Describe any issues that would diminish the detectability of birds. e.g secretive marsh birds are difficult to detect due to hwy noise
Unknown

Conservation issues

High Salt marsh acreage minimal

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed

2 wetland restoration projects are proposed on the Tillamook Bay. Saltwater marsh restoration is proposed for approximately 370 acres on along the Wilson-Trask rivers and about 28 acres is proposed for restoration and acquisition on the Miami River.

Past and current surveys

Yearly Christmas Bird Count
Wintering and breeding window surveys for snowy plover, noting other spp present
Wintering eagle counts and breeding season nest monitoring
Mid-winter waterfowl counts
Anecdotal observations at all times of year

Potential survey methods

Description: (describe survey methods that are appropriate for your site and recommend the best means in which to complete them considering the limitations and history above. Include information on suggested standardized or specialized protocols)
Unknown

Selection bias: (Discuss the potential for selection bias when designing a survey in the future, especially when sub-sample of the site will be studied. Point out how bias could be introduced and recommend ways to prevent this)
Unknown

Measurement error and bias:

Unknown

Potential pilot studies

Unknown

Literature cited

- Google, Inc. 2010. Tillamook Bay. Google Earth (Version 5.1.3533.1731) [Software]. Available from <http://earth.google.com>. Accessed March 16, 2010.
- Google Map. 2010. Map of Tillamook Bay, Oregon. <http://maps.google.com/>. Accessed March 16, 2010.
- National Audubon Society. 2010. Important Bird Areas in the U.S. Available at <http://audubonportland.org/bird/iba/iba>. Accessed March 16, 2010.
- Tillamook Bay National Estuary Plan. 1999. Tillamook Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan: Restoring the Balance. Garibaldi, Oregon.
- Tillamook National Estuary Partnership. 2010. Tillamook National Estuary Partnership 2010 Workplan.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2010. National Wetlands Inventory website. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/>. Accessed March 16, 2010.

Figure 2: Google Earth (2010) map of Tillamook Bay with the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (2010) layer.

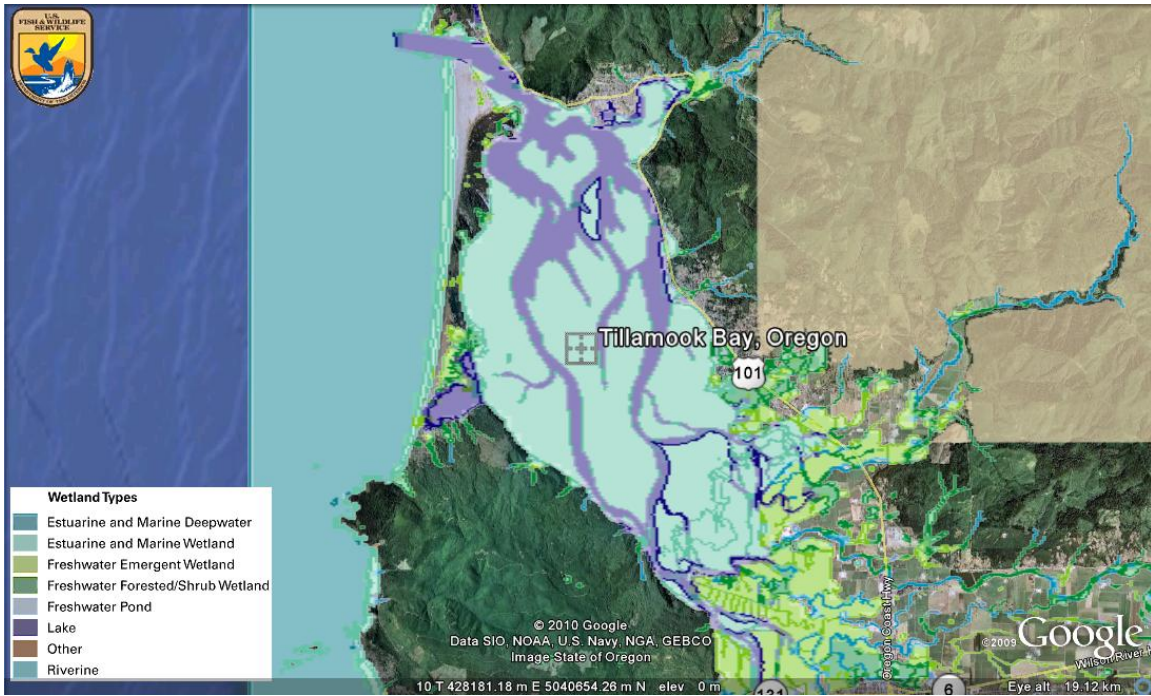


Figure 3: Google Map (2010) road view of Tillamook Bay.

