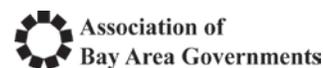




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail

Site Description for

San Francisco Marina Small Craft Harbor



Location, Ownership, and Management: The San Francisco Small Craft Harbor, also known as the San Francisco Marina, is the oldest recreational marina operating in San Francisco, and perhaps the greater Bay Area. The marina is operated by San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department. The marina is divided into the West Harbor (the location of the proposed Water Trail site) and the East Harbor. Although the marina is generally oriented towards berthers and visiting sailboats and motorboats, the site provides a variety of facilities that make it a good launch or destination for non-motorized small boats.

Contact Name: Scotty Grindy, Harbormaster

Contact Phone: (415) 831-6322

Contact E-mail: scott.grindy@sfgov.org

		
EZ Launch Accessible Transfer System kayak launch	Transfer bench and transfer slide	ADA gangway

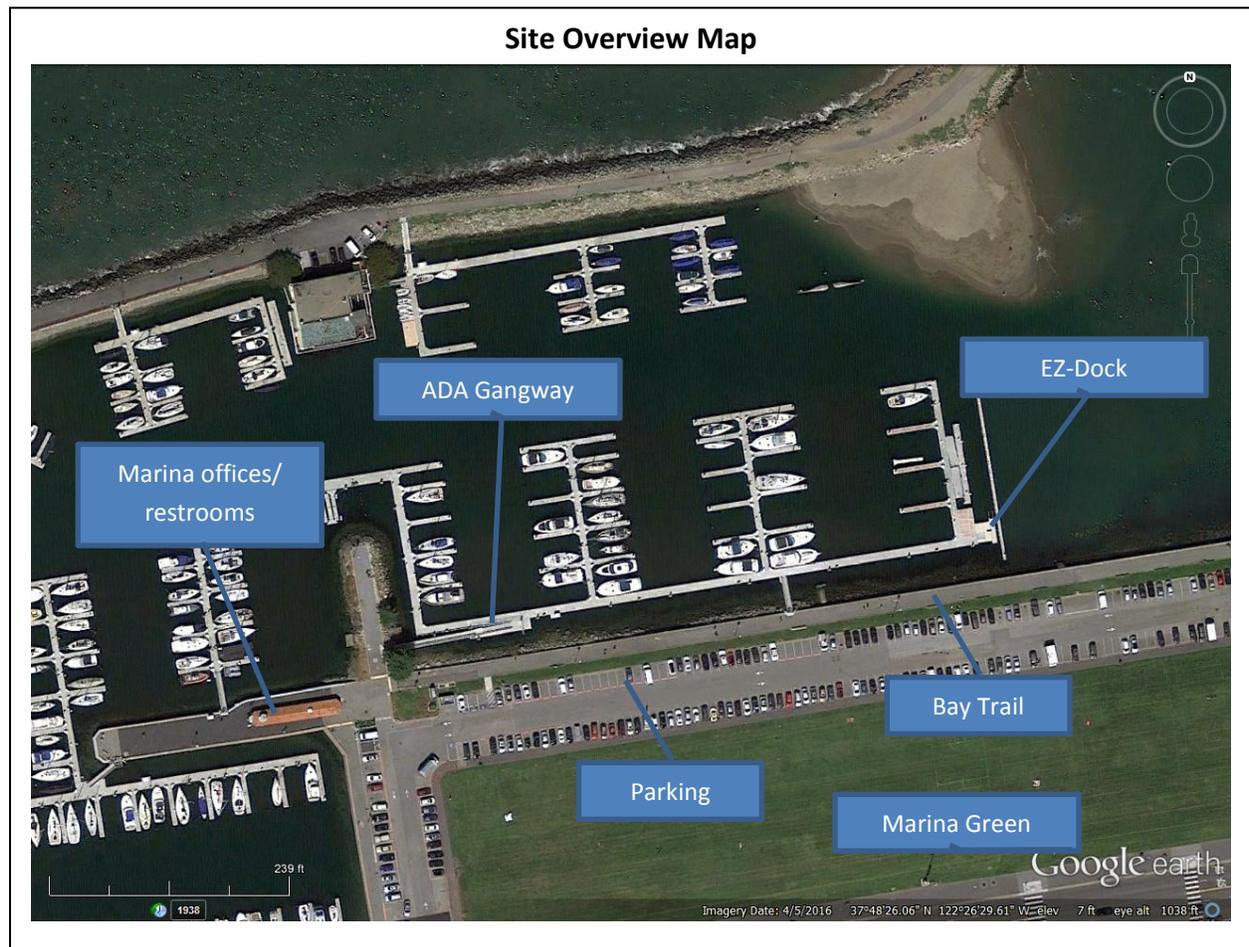
Facility Description: The marina's small boat launch facilities are located behind a locked gate within the marina, with access to this area open to the public upon request. Access to the Marina's high-freeboard docks is via an ADA gangway that leads to a low-float accessible EZ Launch Accessible Transfer System kayak launch on the eastern side of the dock. This system includes guide rails for easy access in and out of the water, launch rollers, and a transfer bench and transfer slide boards that allow users to sit, slide over and drop down into a kayak or canoe then use the side rails to pull off or back on. This system is connected to a floating platform attached to the marina's high freeboard docks.

Restrooms are located within the harbor offices close to the parking area, approximately 140 feet west of the ADA ramp to the docks. General public "non-permit" vehicle parking is valid between the hours of 6:00 am to 10:00 pm. Two hundred nineteen (219) parking spaces are located throughout the Marina Green. The parking area has four ADA spaces in the vicinity of the docks.

Non-motorized small boats observed at the site include kayaks, rowboats, paddle boards, outriggers, and canoes. San Francisco Marina also features a large and popular park, Marina Green, which is home to many events including Escape From Alcatraz and Fleet Week.

Other Identifying or General Information:

<p>Site ID: <u>SF19</u> In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> County: <u>San Francisco</u> Geo-Region: <u>Northern San Francisco</u> <u>Waterfront</u> SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Central Bay</u> Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u></p>	<p>Home of a Club: <u>No</u> Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: <u>No</u> Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>No</u> Near Food or Drink: <u>No</u> Proximity to Other Sites: Crissy Field is 0.5 miles north; East Marina is 0.4 miles east; Aquatic Park is 1 mile east; Pier 39 is 1.9 miles east. Horseshoe Cove is 2.5 miles north; Kirby Cove is 2.9 miles north.</p>
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Description of Launch/Landing:

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>No</u> Float: <u>Yes</u> Freeboard Level: <u>Low (less than 9")</u> Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>Yes</u> Gangway: <u>Yes</u> Gangway Length (feet): <u>135</u> Gangway Width (inches): <u>64</u> Gangway Slope Description: The gangway is gently sloping and designed to meet ADA requirements. Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>No</u> Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>No</u> Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u> Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u> Beach: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u> Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u> Water Entry Path: <u>No</u> Restrictions: The gate to the dock is locked to protect private boats, requiring that users obtain a key from the marina offices located adjacent to the top of the ADA gangway. Users will sign out a key card for access through the gate to the dock. Users must return key upon returning from their paddle. Keys can be checked out for multiple days if longer trips are planned.</p>
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Site Appears to be Suitable For:

<p>Kayak: <u>Yes</u> Windsurfer: <u>No</u> Kiteboard: <u>No</u> Whaleboat: <u>No</u> Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Outrigger Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Sculling: <u>No</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes</u> Dragonboat: <u>No</u></p>
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The Transfer Bench is built with two heights for varying wheelchair sizes and two Transfer Slide Boards to accommodate differing watercraft heights.

Transportation and Parking:

<p>General Spaces (number): <u>219</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>4 (in vicinity of docks, more located throughout parking area)</u></p> <p>ADA Parking Description: Four van accessible parking spaces near the Harbor offices and the top of the ADA gangway. Eleven ADA sites are located throughout the parking lot.</p> <p>Duration (hours): <u>12</u> Overnight Parking Allowed: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Overnight Parking Description: Overnight allowed with permit, but mostly for residential use for live-aboards and from adjacent neighborhoods.</p> <p>Loading/Unloading Area: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Public Transportation: The Marina is serviced by Muni lines #22, #28, and #43.</p>  <p><i>ADA parking and designated loading/unloading parking spaces are located near the top of the gangways leading to the launch.</i></p>
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Path of Travel:

<p>Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): <u>650</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): <u>650</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): <u>700</u> Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): <u>180</u> Path of Travel Exists: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Path of Travel Description: The path of travel is level and paved, both through the parking area and along the Bay Trail.</p>

Other Site Amenities:

<p>Total Restrooms: <u>2</u> Total ADA Restrooms: <u>2</u> Restroom Description: One male and one female ADA restroom located within Harbor offices adjacent to the launch gangway. Boat Washing: <u>No</u> Rigging/Staging Area: <u>No</u> Picnic Tables: <u>No</u> Benches: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>BBQ: <u>No</u> Boat Storage: <u>No</u> Boat Storage Description: Marina is looking into moving paid kayak storage from the East Marina to the docks near the kayak launch. Additionally, the Yacht Club has been approached about potentially providing kayak storage.</p>
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The Marina offices offer ADA restrooms, a drinking fountain, and interpretive signage.

Overnight Accommodations:

Hotel: <u>No</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
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Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

The San Francisco Marina has been designed to meet ADA standards. Facilities include an accessible gangway that leads to a dock with transition plates. The gangway has a gentle slope and handrails. The dock has transition plates and the surface is smooth. The kayak launch includes a low-float dock with handbars, rollers, and a transfer system.

This site provides ADA parking spaces and a paved path of travel from the parking area located approximately 600 feet south of the boat launch.

Additional Notes on Use of Site (Boating and Non-Boating) and Existing and Planned Management:

The site currently receives little use due to lack of knowledge of the public facility. The launch is behind a locked gate and there is no existing signage indicating that the public can use the launch facility. In coordination with BCDC, the SF Marina will be placing several signs indicating that the kayak launch is a public facility and access can be obtained by request from the marina offices.

It is anticipated that the site will become a more heavily used launch for paddlers crossing the Golden Gate to sites in Marin County (e.g., Kirby Cove and Horseshoe Cove) as well as a destination for paddlers coming from Marin or other locations along the San Francisco Waterfront.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

The site is operated and maintained by the City of San Francisco, which has regular patrols of the Marina Green and waterfront area. The harbor master and staff are onsite between 8:30am to 5pm to respond to any issues. Additionally, the US Coast Guard regularly patrols the Golden Gate, including monitoring by camera.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

The San Francisco shoreline is a popular and developed park along most of the shoreline in the vicinity of the site, limiting potential for impacts to sensitive species and habitats.

Within four miles of the launch there are several locations where sensitive species congregate, particularly in the Crissy Field wetlands, on Alcatraz Island and Angel Island State Park. Nearly 100 species of birds have been documented using the marshes at Crissy Field; however, these wetlands are not accessible to paddlers from the Bay. Alcatraz Island is approximately 1.6 miles from the Marina. Alcatraz is a sanctuary for seabirds such as cormorants and pigeon guillemots, and for waterbirds such as snowy egrets and black-crowned night herons. Nesting birds are censused on a yearly basis, and management actions are adjusted to avoid disturbance during this sensitive time (February through September). Information about avoiding disturbance of nesting birds should be included on the website and site signage. Angel Island is an approximately four mile paddle from the site, so it is not anticipated that use of the SF Marina would substantially increase visitors paddling to Angel Island or associated disturbance to seal haul outs.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:

There is existing signage on the Marina offices describing marine protected areas, species, and habitats. Water Trail and BCDC staff have worked with SF Recreation and Parks Department to ensure signage is clear about how the public can obtain access to the launch.

Other Existing or Anticipated Water Trail-Related Issues and Opportunities:

SF Recreation and Parks is considering moving paid kayak storage from the East Marina to the docks near the kayak launch. It is anticipated that this could happen when redevelopment of the East Marina begins. SF Recreation and Parks would also like to provide space for a commercial operation, but a suitable location has not been identified due to issues with public access to the Marina's private slips.

Accessibility of Sites within the Northern San Francisco Waterfront Geo-Region:

There are six potential Water Trail sites identified within this geo-region: Crissy Field; San Francisco Marina; Aquatic Park; Pier 39; Pier 1.5; and Treasure Island. Of these, Pier 39 and the San Francisco Marina have the most broadly accessible launch/landing facilities.

The experiences that are available in the Northern San Francisco Waterfront Geo-Region are urban. The San Francisco Marina and Pier 39 provide an ADA gangway, path of travel, EZ-Dock transfer launch, restrooms and parking. Crissy Field, Marina Green, and Treasure Island have accessible facilities on the land-side, but require a beach crossing to get to the water. Pier 1.5 has an ADA gangway that leads to a high-freeboard dock.

**Summary of Environmental Review
based on the
San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan Final Environmental Impact Report**

**San Francisco Marina
September 16, 2016**

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.</p>	<p>San Francisco Marina has a low float accessible attachment with a transfer step. Facilities are new and well maintained and have sufficient capacity to accommodate increased levels of use.</p>	<p>Regarding recreational conflict, Water Trail users may submit comments to Water Trail staff through the website if they witness or experience recreational conflict at any designated site. The public NMSB dock is located to the east of the boat slips and the immediate vicinity of the mouth of the marina, minimizing potential motorized boat/NMSB conflicts.</p>
<p>Navigational and Personal Safety References: WT DREIR pp. 3-38 to 3-51, and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.</p>	<p>Winds and currents on the Bay can be strong, particularly at the Golden Gate, so care needs to be taken to ensure paddlers stay within their skill level. Small craft should be cautious to avoid the barges, ferries, and other large ships that frequent the shipping lanes offshore. The primary large vessel entrance and exit lanes for San Francisco Bay are located north of the marina, between San Francisco and Marin.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign provides safety information related to navigational and personal boating safety.</p>
<p>Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.</p>	<p>San Francisco Marina is considered an urban launch, characterized by the developed marina adjacent to commercial and recreational uses along the Marina Green.</p>	<p>The Water Trail will require the inclusion of a Water Trail identification sign at the site. A “sign program” has been developed with input of BCDC and the Water Trail to ensure that the I.D. sign and additional educational sign do not result in sign clutter at the site.</p>
<p>Biology-Vegetation References: WT DREIR pp. 3-69 to 3-92 and Table 3.7.2-1 and Table 3.7.2-2.</p>	<p>The shoreline of the San Francisco Marina is reinforced in some areas with riprap and bulkhead and generally developed. Wetland vegetation has not been observed by WT staff at any tide levels within or in the immediate vicinity of the boat launch.</p>	<p>Preventing the inadvertent spread of exotic, invasive plant species is important at all launch sites. The WT educational sign and website ask WT users to help prevent the spread of invasive species by rinsing boats and equipment immediately after use.</p>

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i>	Due to the developed nature of the region, there are limited active nesting areas in the vicinity of the site. Alcatraz Island and Angel Island offer habitat for nesting birds within four miles of the site.	The WT educational sign includes information about how to paddle responsibly around wildlife and to maintain a buffer distance from nesting birds. The WT website and brochure include more detailed information about not disturbing nesting birds.
Biology – Rafting Waterfowl <i>References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Table 3.8.2-1, Figure 3.8.2-1.</i>	This site may provide access to areas in San Francisco Bay where rafting waterfowl congregate.	Disturbance of rafting waterfowl is not addressed in existing signs on site, but is highlighted in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.
Biology – Ridgway's rail (formerly California clapper rail) and California black rail and high tide refugia <i>References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figure 3.8.2-2</i>	Ridgway's rail and black rail depend on habitat that does not exist at the San Francisco Marina.	Signage is needed to emphasize the importance of not entering marshes, keeping a 50-foot buffer from rail habitat (not entering channels less than 100-feet wide), and staying clear of high-tide refugia, and that landing in marshes and on levees is prohibited. The Water Trail educational sign and brochure include this information. Additional information could be included to notify boaters not to attempt to paddle into the lagoon at Crissy Field.
Biology –Western Snowy Plover <i>References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figures 3.8.2-3</i>	Snowy plovers are known to nest within 4 miles of the site at Crissy Field.	The Water Trail educational sign and brochure include bird avoidance information, including staying 650 feet from snowy plover nesting areas.
Biology – Harbor Seals <i>References: WT DREIR pp. 3-132 to 3-156, Figure 3.9.2-1, and Tables 3.9.2-1, 3.9.2-2, 3.9.5-1, and 3.9.5-2</i>	There are two harbor seal primary or secondary haul-out sites within four miles of this site. However, these locations are on Angel Island and Treasure Island, and increased use of the site is anticipated to result in a negligible increase in visitation to these areas.	The WT educational sign, brochure, and website all advise boaters not to land at haul-out sites and to always stay at least 330' away from hauled-out harbor seals and at least 500' away from March to July when seals are pupping.
Cultural Resources	No WT-related construction is planned at this time.	The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.
Hydrology	No WT-related construction is planned at this time.	Future construction may require site hydrologic conditions to be addressed at that time. Is future construction anticipated?

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Transportation, Circulation, and Parking	There are 219 public parking spaces located along Marina Green. The site is also near numerous public transit lines and the Bay Trail.	As a location adjacent to a major public park, there is sufficient capacity to accommodate anticipated increases in site use associated with the launch.



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**SAN FRANCISCO
BAY AREA
WATER
TRAIL**

SF Marina and Pier 39, San Francisco

- Designated Water Trail Site
- Potential Water Trail Site
- 4 Mile Buffer (from Potential Sites)
- Shipping Channel
- Active Heronry
- Pelican Roost
- Primary or secondary harbor seal haul out site
- Western Snowy Plover



CA Harbor Seal data from Water Trail FEIR. Ridgway's and black rail, Western snowy plover, and heronry data generalized from 2015 California Natural Diversity Database