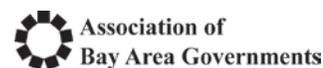




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
Site Description for
Pier 39

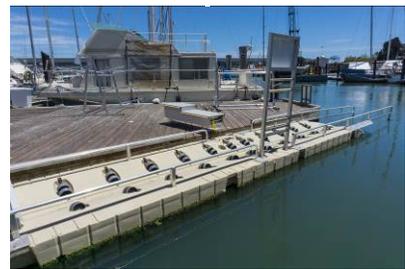


Location, Ownership, and Management: The Pier 39 small boat launch is within the Pier 39 Marina, which owned by PIER 39 Limited Partnership and is located on the northernmost point of the San Francisco peninsula, two blocks east of Fisherman’s Wharf. Pier 39 is a 45-acre waterfront complex that contains 14 restaurants and 90+ shops as well as a 5-acre waterfront park and a 306-berth marina.

Contact Name: Sheila Chandor, Director of Marina Operations

Contact Phone: (415) 705-5436

Contact E-mail: Sheila@pier39.com

		
EZ Launch Accessible Transfer System kayak launch	Transfer bench and transfer slide	Short-term kayak storage

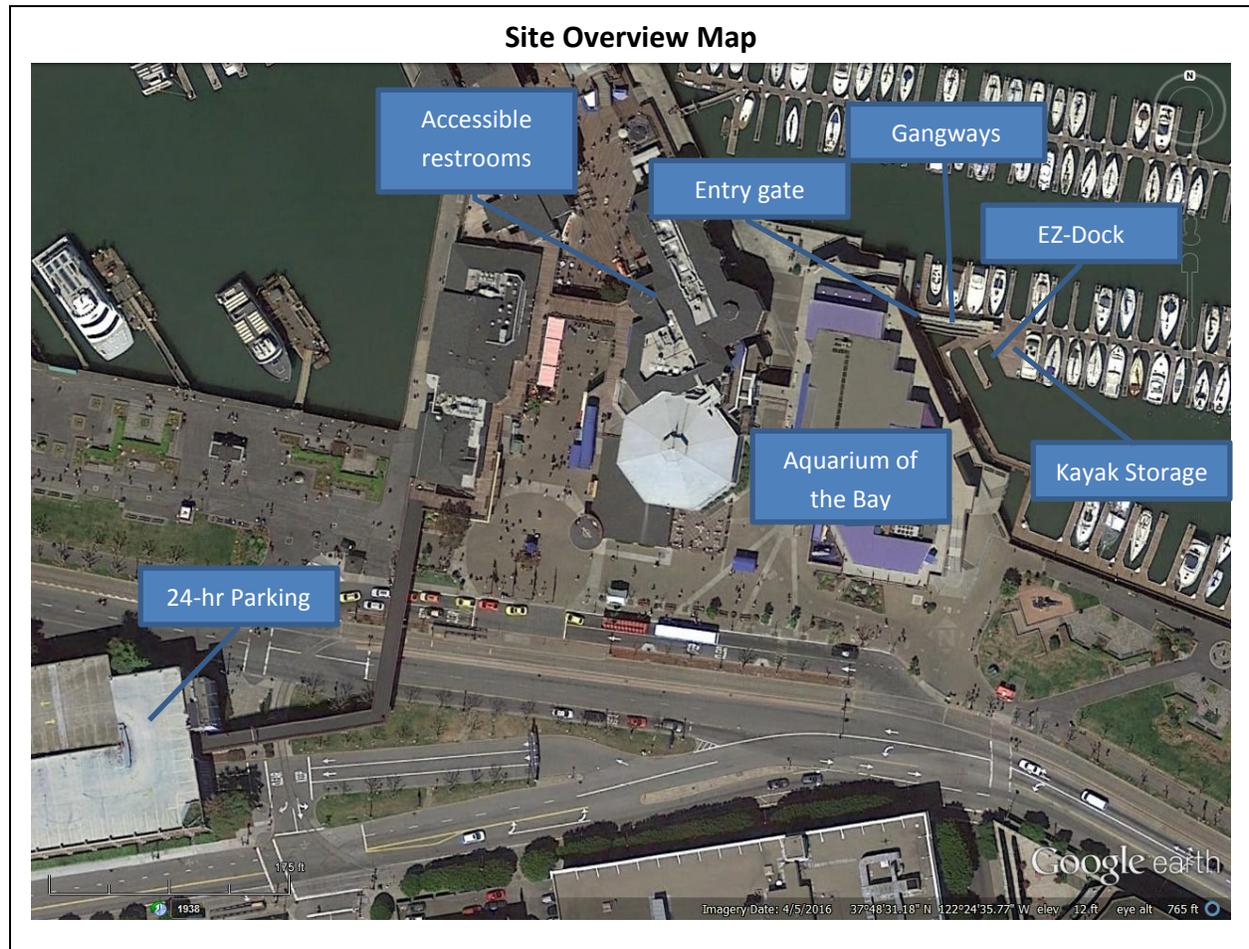
Facility Description: Pier 39's small boat launch facilities are located behind a locked gate within the East Marina, with access open to the public upon request. There are two gangways to the Marina docks: an ADA gangway to mechanical lift; and, a narrow non-ADA gangway. The Pier 39 small boat launch consists of a low-float EZ Launch Accessible Transfer System connected to wooden high-freeboard docks. 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 to use the side rails to pull off or back on. Adjacent to the launch are storage racks with room to store 12 kayaks/non-motorized small boats. The racks are intended for short-term use—while visitors explore Pier 39 – not long-term storage.

Restrooms are located within Pier 39, approximately 270 feet west of the ADA ramp to the docks. Pier 39 has paid visitor parking in the Pier 39 Garage, located directly across the street from the Entrance Plaza. The Pier 39 Garage is open 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Non-motorized small boats observed at the site include kayaks, paddle boards, and canoes.

Other Identifying or General Information:

<p>Site ID: <u>SF17</u> In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Private</u> County: <u>San Francisco</u> Geo-Region: <u>Northern San Francisco Waterfront</u> SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Central Bay</u> Launch or Destination: <u>Destination</u> Home of a Club: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: <u>No</u> Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>No</u> Near Food or Drink: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Proximity to Other Sites: Aquatic Park is located 0.75 miles west; Pier 1.5 is 1.2 miles southeast; Pier 40 is located 2.5 miles southeast; San Francisco Marina is located 1.75 miles west; Horseshoe Cove is 3.4 miles north; Kirby Cove is 4.2 miles north; Angel Island is 3.8 miles north.</p>
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Description of Launch/Landing:

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>Yes</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>50</u> Gangway Width (inches): <u>60</u> Gangway Slope Description: Gangway leading to the ADA lift is level. Non-ADA gangway is moderately sloped. Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>No</u> Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>Yes</u> Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u> Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u> Beach: <u>No</u> Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u> Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>Launch is free; parking is paid.</u></p>	<p>Other Launch/Landing Notes: The Pier 39 small boat launch is anticipated to serve primarily as a destination site for paddlers starting elsewhere. The numerous amenities and attractions at Pier 39 make it an ideal stop for visitors and residents.</p> <p>Restrictions: The gate to the dock is locked, requiring that users to press a button on the gate that will contact the Pier 39 security offices. Security is able to view the gate with a camera and remotely unlock for paddlers between the hours of 6am to 9pm.</p> <p>Water Entry Path: <u>No</u></p>
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A button on the gate that will contact the Pier 39 security offices to remotely unlock for paddlers between the hours of 6am to 9pm.

Site Appears to be Suitable For:

Kayak: <u>Yes</u> Windsurfer: <u>No</u> Kiteboard: <u>No</u> Whaleboat: <u>No</u> Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u>	Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Outrigger Canoe: <u>No</u> Sculling: <u>No</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>No</u> Dragonboat: <u>No</u>
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The Pier 39 small boat launch is anticipated to serve primarily as a destination site for paddlers starting elsewhere on the Water Trail.

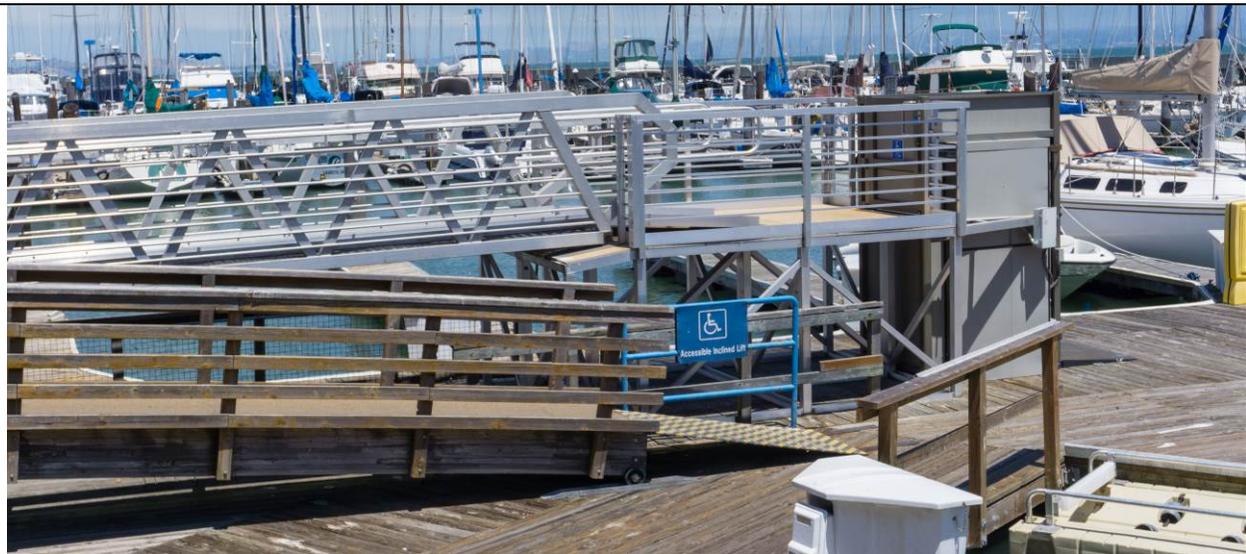
Transportation and Parking:

General Spaces (number): <u>100+</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>12</u> ADA Parking Description: Pier 39 has paid visitor parking in the Pier 39 Garage, located directly across the street from the Entrance Plaza. The Pier 39 Garage is open 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Duration (hours): <u>24</u> Overnight Parking Allowed: <u>Yes</u>	Overnight Parking Description: Paid parking is available 24/7. Loading/Unloading Area: <u>No</u> Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u> Public Transportation: Public Transit to Pier 39 is available via the F-Line street car or the 8X, 8BX, 39 or 47 bus.
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Path of Travel:

Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): 950
 Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): 950
 Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): 270
 Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): 300
 Path of Travel Exists: Yes

Path of Travel Description: It is anticipated that the primary use of the Pier 39 will be as a destination for paddlers originating elsewhere. A level and accessible path of travel exists between the dock and adjacent restrooms, shops, and restaurants.



Access to the Marina's high-freeboard docks is via an ADA gangway to mechanical lift or non-ADA gangway.

Other Site Amenities:

Total Restrooms: 2
 Total ADA Restrooms: 2
 Restroom Description: Accessible public restrooms are located on the north side of "Building Q" located west of the small boat launch.
 Boat Washing: No
 Rigging/Staging Area: No

Picnic Tables: No
 Benches: Yes
 BBQ: No
 Boat Storage: Yes, short-term
 Boat Storage Description: Two 6-kayak racks provide free short-term storage while paddlers stop for restaurants or shopping at Pier 39. No long-term storage at Pier 39 is currently offered.

Overnight Accommodations:

Hotel: <u>Yes</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
Accommodations Description: There are several hotels located within walking distance of Pier 39.				

Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

Pier 39 has been designed to meet ADA standards. Facilities include an accessible gangway that leads to a motorized lift. The gangway is level and the lift drops users at the docks adjacent to the kayak launch. The kayak launch includes a low-float dock with handbars, rollers, and a transfer system.

The Pier 39 parking garage provides ADA parking spaces and a paved path of travel from the parking area located approximately 950 feet south of the boat launch. ADA restrooms are located on Pier 39 via an accessible path of travel.



The Accessible Transfer System exceeds the minimum requirements of the ADA. The Transfer Bench is built with two heights for varying wheelchair sizes and two Transfer Slide Boards to accommodate differing watercraft heights. The Transfer Slide Boards land securely on a railing system that stabilize and provide grab bar transfer assistance for easy slide movement. Users can simply slide over and drop down into a kayak or canoe while utilizing handrails to pull off and on.

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 signage was only recently added (July 2016) indicating that the public can use the launch facility. In coordination with BCDC, Pier 39 has placed several signs indicating that the kayak launch is a public facility and access can be obtained by pressing a button on the gates to request entry from the security offices.

It is anticipated that the site will become a more heavily used launch as a destination for paddlers coming from Marin or other locations along the San Francisco Waterfront. The site has the capacity to accommodate additional use; however, kayak storage space would be limited to twelve boats at any one time.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

Pier 39 is patrolled 24-hours by private security professionals trained as first responders and certified in First Aid, CPR, Automated External Defibrillator and State of California Guard Card Training. Security can be reached at (415) 705-5436.

Paddlers will also be advised not to paddle underneath Pier 39 due to public safety concerns.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

San Francisco has a popular and developed waterfront along most of the shoreline in the vicinity of the site, limiting potential impacts to sensitive species and habitats.

The sea lion colony within Pier 39 is located on the west side of Pier 39. Paddlers should maintain similar distances recommend for harbor seal haul outs (330 ft.) and avoid paddling directly at sea lions.

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 1.3 miles from Pier 39. 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 are interpretive signs located throughout Pier 39, including on the boardwalk that leads to the small boat launch gate. These signs describe various native species of the San Francisco Bay. The adjacent Aquarium of the Bay has a primary mission of education, outreach, and stewardship for species and habitats of the San Francisco Bay.

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

It is anticipated that the Pier 39 facilities will become a popular destination, including among kayak rental patrons and for guided trips. The paddle from the SF Marina would allow boaters to launch and land at broadly accessible sites.

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 access 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**

**Pier 39
September 16, 2016**

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.	Pier 39 has a low float accessible attachment with a transfer step and slide. Facilities are new and well maintained and have sufficient capacity to accommodate increased levels of use.	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.
Navigational and Personal Safety References: WT DREIR pp. 3-38 to 3-51, and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.	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. The primary large vessel entrance and exit lanes for San Francisco Bay are located north of the marina, between San Francisco and Marin.	The Water Trail educational sign provides safety information related to navigational and personal boating safety. Signage should include additional site safety information to ensure paddlers are aware of hazardous conditions, even on days that appear calm. In addition, the Coast Guard actively monitors the waters around the Golden Gate and are prepared for rescues in case of emergencies.
Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.	Pier 39 is considered an urban launch, characterized by the developed marina adjacent to commercial and recreational uses in Pier 39.	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.
Biology-Vegetation References: WT DREIR pp. 3-69 to 3-92 and Table 3.7.2-1 and Table 3.7.2-2.	The shoreline of Pier 39 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.	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. As a destination site, washing down small crafts would not be an issue at this site.

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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></p>	<p>This site may provide access to areas in San Francisco Bay where rafting waterfowl congregate.</p>	<p>Disturbance of rafting waterfowl is not addressed in existing signs on site, but is highlighted in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.</p>
<p>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></p>	<p>Ridgway's rail and black rail depend on habitat that does not exist at Pier 39.</p>	<p>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-foot 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.</p>
<p>Biology –Western Snowy Plover <i>References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figures 3.8.2-3</i></p>	<p>Unique or important western snowy plover habitat does not exist at Pier 39. Snowy plovers are known to nest at Crissy Field, approximately 2.8 miles away.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign and brochure include bird avoidance information, including staying 650 feet from snowy plover nesting areas.</p>
<p>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></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Cultural Resources</p>	<p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time. NMSB users are not anticipated to land in regional wetland habitat, potentially disturbing cultural artifacts. The site has a long history of disturbance and any future construction is not likely to identify undisturbed resources.</p>	<p>The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.</p>

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Hydrology	No WT-related construction is planned at this time.	Future construction may require site hydrologic conditions to be addressed at that time.
Transportation, Circulation, and Parking	There are over 100 paid public parking spaces located in the Pier 39 Garage, located directly across the street from the Entrance Plaza. The Pier 39 Garage is open 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The site is also along numerous public transit lines and the Bay Trail.	The site is anticipated to primarily be a destination site, with paddlers arriving after launching at other locations.



Pair_NGISWaterTrail2015_WaterTrail_MarSFMarina-Pier39_Sep2016Destinations.mxd



**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