

DESCRIPTION

Noyo River, located in northern Mendocino County, reaches the ocean approximately 2 miles south of the City of Fort Bragg. This Critical Coastal Area (CCA) watershed has numerous water supply, recreational, and habitat-related uses. Noyo Harbor (which has a marina with 256 boat slips) is built near the mouth of the Noyo River in the town of Noyo, just south of Fort Bragg.

Noyo River is impacted by sedimentation, excessive debris, and habitat alteration. The river's water quality and habitat impacts are mainly associated with historic logging, overgrazing, and road building. The primary water quality concerns are related to drinking water supply and the anadromous fishery.

The only waterbody in this CCA that is listed as impaired on the current (2016) Clean Water Act 303(d) list is **Noyo River** (impaired by sedimentation/siltation). Potential sources of this pollutant, organized by **Source Categories**, are listed as **Silviculture** (silviculture); **Hydromodification** (flow alteration/ regulation/ modification); **Habitat Modification** (removal of riparian vegetation); and **Unspecified Nonpoint Source** (nonpoint source). Noyo River is also listed as impaired by water temperature inland of the Coastal Zone, but not within the CCA.



Mouth of the Noyo River

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For more photos, see the [California Coastal Records Project](#).

CRITERIA FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

The Noyo River [Critical Coastal Area](#) (CCA) was identified in 1995 based on the criterion of a coastal watershed where an impaired waterbody on the 1994 Clean Water Act 303(d) list (Noyo River) flows into a bay or estuary (Noyo Bay).

ADDRESSING POLLUTANTS

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to make a [list of impaired waters](#) that are not attaining water quality standards, and to develop a [Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) or similar approach to account for all sources of the pollutants that caused the water to be listed as impaired. TMDLs include allocations to both point and nonpoint sources (NPS) of the listed pollutants. The current (2016) 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies includes pollutants, potential pollutant sources, and year a TMDL was approved or is expected.

To address NPS pollutants, see [California's Nonpoint Source Management Measures](#) for guidance on selecting appropriate Management Measures, which consist of a suite of plans, practices, technologies, operating methods, or other measures that may be used to control NPS pollution.

Information for this factsheet was originally compiled by members of California's Critical Coastal Areas Statewide Committee in 2006. The factsheet was revised and updated in 2019 by the California Coastal Commission's Water Quality Program staff.

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