

## DESCRIPTION

The Albion River is located south of the town of Mendocino, with approximately 4 river miles within the coastal zone. This watershed supports a water supply and recreational uses, as well as a coldwater fishery.

The protection of coldwater fish species in this Critical Coastal Area (CCA) watershed is limited by habitat conditions that include excess sediment, lack of complex deep pools, fair to poor spawning gravels, and limited shelter. Sediment impairments in this watershed are attributable to various sources including silviculture, roads, and other nonpoint source pollution inputs.

The only waterbody in this CCA that is listed as impaired on the current (2016) Clean Water Act 303(d) list is **Albion River** (impaired by sedimentation/siltation, and water temperature). Potential sources of these pollutants, organized by **Source Categories**, are listed as **Hydromodification** (flow alteration/regulation/modification); **Silviculture** (silviculture, and logging road construction/maintenance); **Habitat Modification** (removal of riparian vegetation); and **Unspecified Nonpoint Source** (nonpoint source).



**Mouth of the Albion River**  
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For more photos, see the [California Coastal Records Project](#).

## CRITERIA FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

The Albion River Critical Coastal Area (CCA) was identified in 1995 based on the criterion of a coastal watershed that flows into an impaired bay or estuary on the 1994 Clean Water Act 303(d) list (Albion River Estuary).

## 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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