

**Naval Security Group Activity (NSGA)
Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico
Region 2
PR4170027383**

Site Exposure Potential

The Naval Security Group Activity (NSGA) site is a communications station in Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico (Figure 1). The station encompasses over 890 hectares and is divided into the North and South tracts. From the 1950s to 1970, waste generated at the facility was deposited at seven disposal areas on the South Tract. The Public Works Department at the station used the areas to dispose of paints; solvents; waste oil; and vehicular fluids, including battery acid. There was also a pest control shop where spills of DDT; lindane; chlordane; 2,4-D; and sevin were reported in and around the building (Greenleaf/Telesca and E&E 1984).

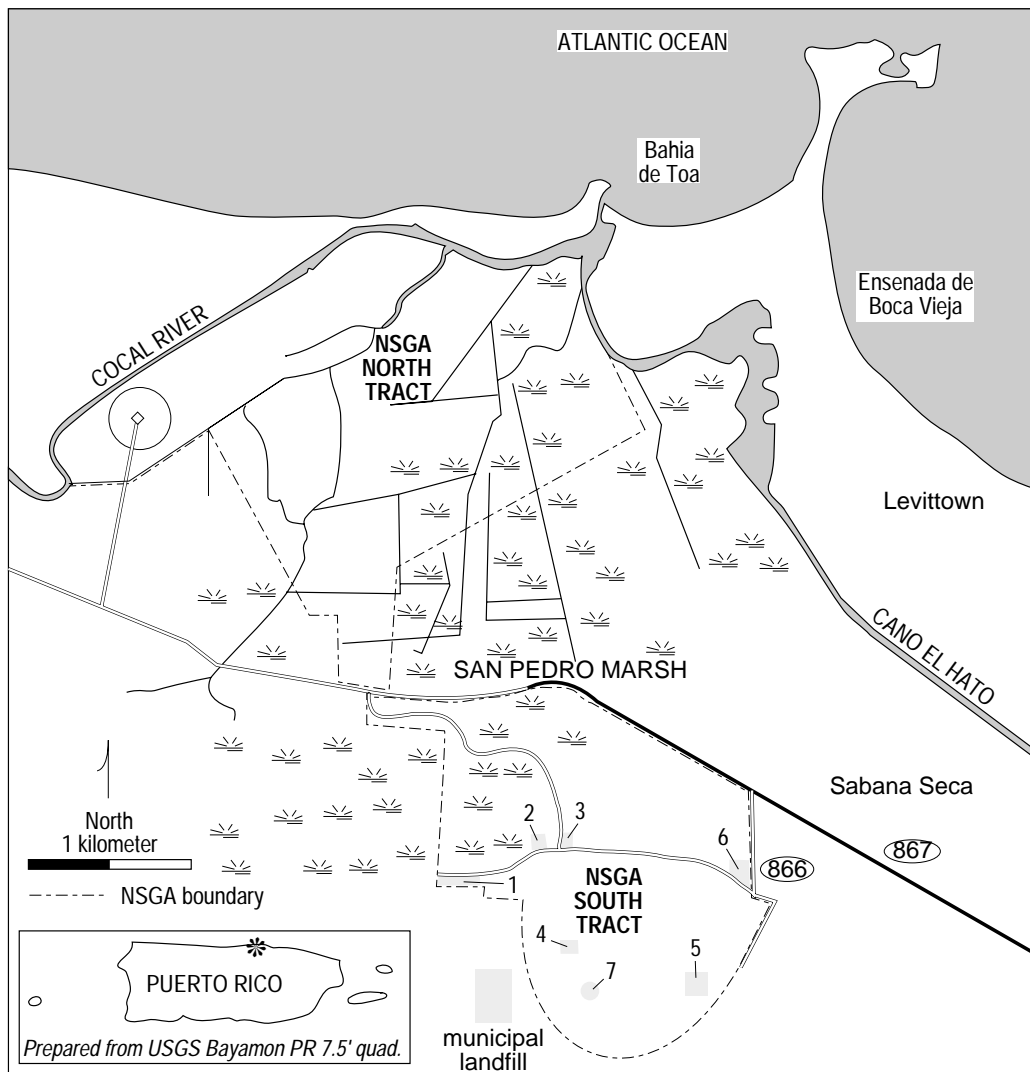


Figure 1. The Naval Security Group Activity site in Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico.

Surface waters of interest include the San Pedro Marsh, a large coastal wetland on both the North and South tracts. This marsh covers 101 hectares and is fed by several unnamed

streams that flow through the facility. There are numerous drainage ditches throughout the marsh. The wetland flows into the Cocal River, which flows along the western border of the facility and discharges into the Atlantic Ocean to the north. There is a mangrove area along the northeast part of the north tract and along the border of the Cocal River. A canal, Cano el Hato, is east of the site and flows into the Atlantic Ocean. The ground on the NSGA facility allows water to rapidly filtrate into the aquifer. Groundwater movement is considered rapid and flows north into the Cocal River and Atlantic Ocean (Greenleaf/Telesca and E&E 1984).

The pathways of concern to NOAA include groundwater flow and surface water runoff to the Cocal River, San Pedro Marsh, and the Atlantic Ocean.

Site-Related Contamination

No extensive on-site study has assessed contaminants at the NSGA site. Due to the wide variety of materials used and disposed of on the facility, it is not possible to determine which contaminants may pose a major threat to natural resources. Materials known to have been used on-site include pesticides, paint materials, arsenic, trace metals, and industrial and residential wastes (Greenleaf/Telesca and E&E 1984).

NOAA Trust Habitats and Species in Site Vicinity

The habitats of concern to NOAA include the Cocal River, San Pedro Marsh, and the Atlantic Ocean (Table 1). A forthcoming management study done by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Navy will add further resource information. The Cocal River and San Pedro Marsh support a large population of land crabs, which are important both recreationally and commercially. These land crabs live along the banks of the Cocal River and in the marsh area. Catadromous freshwater shrimp migrate through the Cocal River to spawn in the Atlantic Ocean. These shrimp are collected both in the river and on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. Shallow water coastal habitat that might be used as nursery is limited near the shoreline of the Atlantic due to a rapid increase in water depth. Two threatened species, the green sea turtle and the loggerhead sea turtle, are found along the coast (Lopez 1989).

Table 1. Selected NOAA trust resource use of the Cocal River, San Pedro Marsh, and the Atlantic Ocean near Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico (Lopez 1989).

| Species | Cocal River | San Pedro Marsh | Atlantic Ocean |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| INVERTEBRATES | | | |
| blue crab | X | X | X |
| freshwater shrimp | X | | X |
| land crab | X | X | |
| FISH | | | |
| grunt | | | X |
| snook | X | | X |
| tarpon | X | | X |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | |
| green turtle | | | X |
| loggerhead turtle | | | X |

Response Category: Undetermined

Current Stage of Site Action: RI/FS Workplan

EPA Site Manager

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Juan Dazila | 212-264-6669 |
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NOAA Coastal Resource Coordinator

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| John Lindsay | 404-347-5231 |
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References

Greenleaf/Telesca & Ecology and Environment. 1984. Initial Assessment Study of Naval Security Group Activity, Sabana Seca and Naval Communications Station, Puerto Rico. Miami: Navy Assessment and Control of Installation Pollutants (NACIP) Department. Naval Energy and Environmental Support Activity (NAVENENSA).

Lopez, F., fisheries biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, personal communication, January 16, 1989.