



**INITIAL ASSESSMENT STUDY
NAVAL STATION
ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO**

FIGURE 8-12
SITE 14, ENSENADA HONDA
SHORELINE AND MANGROVES

2.3.13 Site 14, Ensenada Honda Shoreline and Mangroves. This site is located in Ensenada Honda and along the shoreline adjacent to Berthing Pier No. 3, Community Beach, the mangrove swamp north of Community Beach, and the area south to about Punta Cascajo (see Figure 2-1). It is estimated that 210,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled into the harbor from the tanker ship, the Arco Prestige, in 1981. Cleanup operations were conducted by the Navy and Crowely Environmental Company. An oil separator barge was used to collect oil from the harbor, and absorbent pads were used to remove oil along the shoreline. Oil-stained sand was also removed from Community Beach. An estimated 20,000 gallons were recovered. The remainder of the fuel was blown ashore or sank. In addition, material from the 1978 diesel spill from Tank 1080 and the 1958 Bunker C fuel spill from Tank 82 drifted into the Ensenada Honda mangroves.

Spilled oil can still be found in the Ensenada Honda mangrove swamp and along the shoreline in proximity to the berthing pier. Contamination may also be present on the bottom of the harbor. Receptors include the manatee and sea

turtles previously discussed, the endangered yellow-shouldered blackbird, and the many juvenile and food organisms found in the mangrove swamps. Contaminants may also enter the human food chain through the consumption of fish caught in the harbor by base personnel or the local civilian population.

Site 14 is recommended for a Confirmation Study.

8.14 SITE 14, ENSENADA HONDA SHORELINE AND MANGROVES. In August 1981, the Arco Prestige, a civilian tanker ship chartered by the U.S. Navy, developed a

problem with the piping system while anchored in the vicinity of Berthing Pier No. 3 and leaked an estimated 210,000 gallons of diesel fuel into Ensenada Honda (see Figure 8-12). The fuel spread in a northwesterly direction across the harbor to Community Beach, the Ensenada Honda mangrove swamp north of Community Beach, and the area south to about Punta Cascajo.

Crowely Environmental Company was contracted to assist the Navy in cleanup operations. A boom was placed in the harbor and a skimmer on a flat bottom boat was used to remove the fuel floating on the surface of the water. The fuel was pumped into a Ships Waste Offload Barge (SWOB) with an oil-water separator. A large percentage of the spilled fuel was recovered from the harbor by this method. About 50 Navy personnel assisted Crowely Environmental Company in conducting cleanup operations along the shoreline using absorbent pads to remove fuel from Community Beach and the mangrove swamp. A total of 60 to 100 55-gallon drums of oil-soaked pads were collected and given to the Crash Crew for use in training. Approximately two to three five-ton truckloads of oil-stained sand also were removed from the beach front area. The remainder of the fuel (estimated at 100,000 gallons) was blown into the Ensenada Honda mangroves, or sank to the bottom.