South Bay is the least developed portion of the Humboldt Bay system. Small areas in the upper part of Beatrice Flats were developed for agriculture in the 1880's. Activity which has taken place on South Spit. The road to the north end of the spit was unpaved for many years and often washed out. It was repaved in 1968.

Construction of the jetties at the Bay mouth in 1891 and later, dredging of the entrance channel about Much of Table Bluff was cleared for farming early in (presently not in production).

In 1850, the distal end of North Spit consisted of two recurved spits with a shallow lagoon between them. By 1858, both spits had eroded and lagoon was gone; a single point jutted into the Bay.

Prior to settlement, most of Indian Island was salt marsh. A saw mill was used for agriculture as early as 1870. The NWPRR was completed through the area about 1901.

This is a pristine area which has received very few impacts as a result of human activities.

Essentially the entire shoreline from Elk River to Humboldt, although little construction of a town took place. Between 1854 and 1891 the northwest shore was relatively stable and Buhne Spit was elongating southwestward at a