

**1-105-A Site Summary - Offshore rocks near Pyramid Point****1-105-A****County:** Del Norte **ACP Division/Segment:** DN - A - S02 DN - A - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18602**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 41.96653 -124.2179**Site Description:**

The site has open sandy beaches and rocky shoreline adjacent to a number of offshore rocks that vary in size from small boiler rocks to small islands that provide nesting and roosting habitat for birds and haul out locations for marine mammals. Hunter and Prince rocks are managed by the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation. Other offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Pyramid Point SMCA. The terrain includes wave cut platforms, exposed rocky headlands and numerous offshore rocks especially in the vicinity of Pyramid Point. Site where immediate response is probably not necessary. Minimal damage would occur, but this does not preclude the need to clean after impacts.

Roosting and potential nesting habitat for seabirds. Seabird rookeries (03-09) include pelagic cormorant, western gull, pigeon guillemot, fork-tailed storm-petrel (SSC), tufted puffin (SSC). Prince Island: snowy egret, black-crowned night heron and great blue heron nest sites, rhinoceros auklet, double-crested cormorant, all (01-12). Aleutian cackling goose (10-11;02-04), marbled murrelet (FT, SE)(01-12) on nearshore waters. Western snowy plover (FT, SSC)(01-12) in dunes. Brown pelican (04-11). Raptors include peregrine falcon and osprey, both (01-12). Marine mammals. Steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout: spawning runs (10-06). Although usually not in large numbers, salmonids including coho (FT,ST) and chinook salmon (SSC), steelhead (SSC), and coastal cutthroat trout (SSC) often forage in the nearshore environment and can be impacted by oiling; redbelt surfperch spawning (04-06), Dungeness crabs in nearshore area, groundfish (EFH). See RAR for more listed species that may be present nearby.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 1A Exposed Rocky Shore

1C Exposed rocky cliffs with boulder talus base

2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Presence</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>
Birds	fork-tailed storm petrel	FP, SSC	Mar-Aug	
Birds	bird rookeries		Feb-Sep	
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Birds	bank swallow	ST	Jun-Aug	
Birds	tufted puffin	FP, SSC	May-Sep	
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	salmonids		Year-round	
Insects	Oregon silverspot butterfly	FT	Year-round	

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

**List of Key Contacts:**

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/Coordinator	Northwest Information Center	(707) 588-8455
C	/	Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	(707) 487-9255
E	/	Del Norte County Parks	(707) 464-7230
E	/	Del Norte County Sheriff's Department	(707) 464-4191
E	/	Redwood National and State Parks	(707) 464-6101
O	/Supervisor Ranger (24hr)	NORCOM State Parks Dispatch	(916) 358-1300
T	/	Bureau of Land Management	(707) 825-2300
T	/Marine Protected Areas	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	(707) 445-6493
T	/	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service-Arcata	(707) 822-7201
T	/	US Fish and Wildlife Service-Arcata Field Office	(707) 822-7201

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

**Additional Site Summary Comments:**

Breeding seabirds will use these rocks for nesting in the spring. Offshore rocks provide roosting and nesting habitat for birds and haulout locations for marine mammals. Care should be taken so that response activities do not flush wildlife from these areas. The rocks are sensitive to human intrusion year round, especially during nesting season (03-09) when the adults are on eggs and until the young have fledged from the nest. The offshore rocks have cultural significance for local tribes.

For further information about coastal access in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Commission's California Coastal Access Guide. For photos of the coastline in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Records Project ([www.californiacoastline.org](http://www.californiacoastline.org)).

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist in the area, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting the Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, the State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or the Northwest Information Center (707) 588-8455.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

The rugged coastline will prevent onshore response over most of this area. Off-site measures including dispersants should be considered when a spill threatens to impact this area. Overflights should be careful to maintain flight path and altitude clearance distances that are large enough to prevent the flushing of birds and marine mammals from their nests, roosts, and haulouts on the offshore rocks in this area.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Extreme currents, offshore rocks, high energy shoreline.

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 1-105.1 Objective:** No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

**Strategy:** Minimize impacts to shoreline in impractical response locations. No on-site strategy will be successful under prevailing conditions. Offshore dispersants should be considered. Off-site skimming should be considered.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update****Logistics:**

**Directions:** Go north on Hwy 101 for 20-miles from Crescent City. Hwy 101 parallels the shoreline and access is generally obvious. The northern most public beach access is at Pelican Point State Beach which is about 1/4 mile south of the Oregon border. Footpath access can be found at Clifford Kamph Memorial Park on the Hwy 101 at milepost 44.69, at the end of Wavecrest road, and inside the White Rock Resort at 16800 Hwy 101N. Drive on access across private gated property exists at the end of Gilbert Way.

**Land Access:** Foot access is generally available along the shoreline.

**On-Water Limitations:** Access to the nearshore is hazardous due to many rocks. The closest boat launches are in Brookings, OR to the north or south at the Ship Ashore Resort near Smith River.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Staging for a local response is available at the Clifford Kamph Memorial Park and the Ship Ashore Resort.

**Communications Problems:** Remote, cell phone coverage is limited.

**Additional Operational Comments:** Comment Type Operational: This site is best protected by preventing the oil from arriving here, when possible. Off-site response options including dispersants and offshore skimming should be considered.

