

County: **Del Norte**
USGS Quad: **Smith River**

Thomas Guide Location
CA Road Atlas
NOAA Chart: **18602**

Latitude N Longitude W
41 58' N 124 13'W

Last Page Update :

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 Smith River Rancheria. 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. Response category 6. Site where immediate response is probably not necessary. Minimal damage would occur, but this does not preclude the need to clean after impacts.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Offshore rocks provide roosting and nesting habitat for birds and haul out locations for marine mammals. Care should be taken so that response activities do not flush wildlife from these areas. The offshore rocks have cultural significance for local tribes.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Roosting and potential nesting habitat for seabirds. 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.

Seabird rookeries (03-09) incl.: Pelagic cormorant, Western gull, Pigeon guillemot, Fork-tailed storm-petrel, 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 Canada Goose (10-11;02-04), Marbled murrelet (FT, SE)(01-12) on nearshore waters. Snowy plover (FT)(01-12) in dunes. Brown pelican (04-11). Raptors incl. Peregrine falcon and Osprey; both (01-12).

marine mammals

Steelhead and Coastal cutthroat trout (SSC): spawning runs (10-06)

Redtail surfperch spawning (04-06)

Dungeness crabs in nearshore area

Groundfish (EFH)

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

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 Mr. Bryan Much, Coordinator of the Northwest Information Center (707) 588-8455.

KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)

| Type | Name / Title | Organization | Phone |
|------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|
| T | | North Coast Redwoods District | (707) 445-6547 |
| O | | Northern Communications (24hr) | (916) 358-0333 |
| T | | Del Norte County Parks | (707) 464-7230 |
| C | | Smith River Rancheria | (707) 487-9255 |
| T | | Redwood National & State Parks | (707) 464-6101 |
| E | | Del Norte County Sheriff's Dept | (707) 464-4191 |
| T | David Ledig Manager | BLM California Coastal National Monument | (831) 630-5006 |
| O | Troy Nicolini | National Weather Service Woodley Island | (707) 442-2171 |
| T | Becky Ota Marine Conservation Mgr | CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program | (650) 631-6789 |
| T | Bob Pagliuco | NOAA/Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service | (707) 834-2215 |
| T | Bill Pinnix | USFWS Arcata Field Office | (707) 845-6858 |
| T | Steve Wertz Senior Env. Scientist | CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program | (562) 342-7184 |

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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).

1-105 -A Site Strategy - Offshore Rocks near Pyramid Point

County and Thomas Guide Location

CA Road Atlas Del Norte

NOAA CHART

18602

1-105 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

41 58' N 124 13'W

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

The rugged coastline will prevent on shore 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 haul outs sanctuaries on the offshore rocks in this area.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Extreme currents, offshore rocks, high energy shoreline.

SITE STRATEGIES

This site is best protected by preventing the oil from arriving here, when possible. Off site response options including dispersants should be considered.

Strategy 1-105.1 Objective: 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

| strategy number | harbor boom | swamp boom | Other boom type | sorb boom | Anchoring no type and gear | Boom boat | Skiffs punts | Skimmers No Type | Special Equipment or No and kinds | comment | staff deploy | Staff tend |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1-105.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |

LOGISTICS

DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)

Go north on U.S. Hwy 101 through Crescent City. U.S. 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 1/4th mile south of the Oregon border. Foot path 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. 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 Smith River Rancheria. 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.

LAND ACCESS: Foot access is generally available along the shoreline.

WATER LOGISTICS: Access to the near shore is hazardous due to many rocks.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Boat Launching is available to the south at the Ship Ashore Resort.

and Services Available:

FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

Staging for a local response is available at the Clifford Kamph Memorial Park and the Ship Ashore Resort.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: Cell phone coverage is limited.

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

