

3-205 -B Site Summary- Santa Cruz Beach**3-205 -B**

County: Santa Cruz

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N

Longitude W

USGS Quad: Santa Cruz

992

36° 57.7'

122° 01.2'

NOAA Chart:

Last Page Update: 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Site includes Cowell beach to north and to south including Santa Cruz Beach terminating at the San Lorenzo River. Beach area under heavy recreational use year round. Shore and seabirds roost upon municipal wharf. Municipal wharf and recreational fishing pier with beach areas on either side. Rocky cliffs short distance away on upcoast side. Area of high recreational use (including surfing, wind-surfing and sailing).

SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Year round

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Underside of municipal wharf is used as a haul-out for substantial numbers of California sea-lions year-round. Beach is highly used recreational beach which limits wildlife value.

Various shorebirds utilize beach and intertidal area to forage, roost and potentially nest.

Haul-out for substantial numbers of California sea lions under municipal wharf. Harbor seals are known to forage in confluence of San Lorenzo River. While not a significant gathering site, Southern Sea Otters (FT) are common throughout Santa Cruz and Monterey counties and may be present near-shore year round.

Site is located within Black Abalone Critical Habitat. Actual presence of black abalone is unknown. Brackish Water Snail is known to occur within San Lorenzo estuary.

Kelp beds are common near-shore.

White-rayed pentachaeta (SE/FE) occurs on site.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Contact the California Dept of Parks and Recreation - Office of Historic Preservation (Eric Allison: 916-445-7044), and the Northwest Information Center (Bryan Much, Sonoma State College: 707-588-8455) for specific information on historic or cultural resources in this area.

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

Type	Name	Title	Organization	Phone
T/E/C		Pajaro Coast Sector	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(831) 429-2881
T/E/C		Santa Cruz District	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(831) 335-6390
			Santa Cruz Harbor - After Hours Patrol	(831) 212-4261
O			Aquarius Boatworks	(831) 475-3131
O			Leo Sport Fishing	(831) 476-2648
O			Santa Cruz City Police	(831) 420-5800
O		Harbor Master	Santa Cruz Harbor	(831) 475-6161
O			Seaside Company	(831) 423-5590
E			City of Santa Cruz - Municipal Wharf	(831) 420-6025
T/E/C		Northern Communications	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(916) 358-0333
T	Scott Kathey	Emergency Response Coord.	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Coast Guard Reserve Lifeguard Headquarters located on the pier. Nearby waterfront hotel (West Coast Santa Cruz Hotel). Significant tourist destination.

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CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:

Underside of municipal wharf is used as a haul-out for substantial numbers of California sea-lions year-round.

HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:**SITE STRATEGIES**Strategy 3-205.1 Objective: Offshore Containment and Recovery Activities to Minimize or Avert Oil From Impacting Shoreline Habitats and Wildlife

This site is difficult to protect as is most of the outer coast. No on-site protection is feasible.

a) Recommended response strategy is on-water containment and recovery

b) Pursue feasibility of alternative response technologies (e.g. dispersants and in-situ burning) to reduce the volume of oil reaching the site.

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 comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
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LOGISTICS**DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)**

Take Highway 1 north to Santa Cruz, or Highway 17 south to Santa Cruz. From either, take Ocean street (Highway 1 goes around a sharp "fishhook" turn to place you on Ocean Street from the left lane, while Highway 17 south will put you directly on Ocean if you stay in the left lane). Take Ocean to Laurel and turn right. At Front Street turn left. Front Street ends at the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf, with Santa Cruz Beach extending to either side of the Wharf. Site includes Cowell beach to north and to south including Santa Cruz Beach terminating at the San Lorenzo River. Beach area under heavy recreational use year round. Shore and seabirds roost upon municipal wharf.

LAND ACCESS Large truck**WATER LOGISTICS:**

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Nearest launch at Santa Cruz Harbor.

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:****ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

