

**3-285 -A Site Summary- Palm Beach****3-285 -A****County:** Santa Cruz**Thomas Guide Location****Latitude N****Longitude W****USGS Quad:** Moss Landing

1014

36° 52.2'

121° 49.5'

**NOAA Chart:****Last Page Update:** 6/30/2014**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Sunset beach lies directly to north and the southern demarcation point at Pajaro rivermouth. Fine to medium grain sandy beach. Low gradient beach backed by vegetated dunes. Both Sunset and Palm beach offer quality habitat for threatened Snowy Plover as recreation impacts are lessened due remote location.

**SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

Western Snowy Plover (FT): present year-round, nesting March-September.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

All beach area is critical habitat for the western snowy plover (FT). Use caution when conducting any beach response and especially in the dunes. Nesting occurs Feb to Sept and site serves as rookery all year long.

Western Snowy Plover (FT): present year-round, nesting March-September. Other shore birds and sea birds are present.

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.

Grunion, surf smelt and several species of surfperch are known to spawn/ forage along these beaches.

Monterey spineflower (FT), Coast Wallflower [*Erysimum ammodendrum*], *Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria* (greater yellowthroat gilia)

**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		Santa Cruz District	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(831) 335-6390
O			Santa Cruz County Sherriff	(831) 471-1121
O			Santa Cruz County Resource Planner (work hrs)	(831) 454-2022
T/E/C		Northern Communications	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(916) 358-0333
T/O	Scott Kathey	Emergency Response Coord.	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

Recreational use, waterfront resort, conference center, private and rental housing.

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**CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:**

Western Snowy Plover (FT): present year-round, nesting March-September. Other shore birds and sea birds are present.

**HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:****SITE STRATEGIES**

Strategy 3-285.1 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 tvoe and dear	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.)**

From Hwy 1 in southern Santa Cruz County just North of Pajaro River, turn west on W. Beach St to Palm Beach Park entrance. Sunset beach lies directly to north and the southern demarcation point at Pajaro rivermouth.

**LAND ACCESS**

Thru State parks gate, contact Parks personnel.

**WATER LOGISTICS:**

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

Santa Cruz harbor or beach launch.

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

