

3-522 -B Site Summary- Point Sur**3-522 -B****County:** Monterey**Thomas Guide Location****Latitude N****Longitude W****USGS Quad:** Point Sur

B

36° 18.6'

121° 54.6'

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

Rocky headlands with exposed sandy beaches to north and south. Intertidal shoreline has rich biodiversity. Lighthouse located on NW side. Access thru locked gate off Hwy 1. Contact Ca Dept of Parks & Rec to access area. The adjacent beach ownership is split. The southwestern approximately 1/3 of beach is owned by California State Parks. Northeastern approximately 2/3 of beach is privately owned (El Sur Ranch.). Property on both sides of road from locked gate to restrooms at base of rock is privately owned (El Sur Ranch.) A second locked gate exists approximately 100 meters up road from the base of Pt Sur rock. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge and the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Point Sur State Marine Reserve. Site is associated with BLM California Coastal National Monument resources. Exposed sandy beaches to the north and south. Point Sur Lighthouse, State Historic Building, is located on the rocky headland (Pt. Sur).

SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Western snowy plover (FT) likely present year-round; nesting likely 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-Sept and site serves as rookery all year long. Pinnipeds use area as a haul-out.

Western snowy plovers (FT) nest in dunes, Black swifts (CA Species of Special Concern) can be found nesting along coastal seacliffs. Peregrine Falcons are known to nest on rock cliffs.

Pacific harbor seals haul-out year round on western base. From May-June, 800 animals have been observed here. In the first small cove just south of Point Sur, there is a Northern elephant seal haulout area. Smith's Blue Butterflies are known to occur nearby. 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. Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) overwinter in area.

Site is located within Black Abalone Critical Habitat. Actual presence of black abalone is unknown.

Kelp beds are common near-shore.

Sandmat (Dune) Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pumila*) and Little Sur Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos edmundsii*) are known to occur here. Seacliff buckwheat occurs in area.

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		Monterey District	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(831) 649-2836
T/E/C		Northern Communications	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(916) 358-0333
E		Foreman	El Sur Ranch	(831) 624-3514
	Jim Hill	Owner	El Sur Ranch	(831) 624-2719
T	Scott Kathey	Emergency Response Coord.	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251
E/T	David Ledig		BLM California Coastal National Monument	(831) 630-5006
T	Becky Ota	Marine Conservation Mgr	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
E/T	James Weigand	Ecologist	BLM	(916) 978-4656
T	Steve Wertz	Senior Env. Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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County: Monterey

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N

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USGS Quad: Point Sur

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36° 18.6'

121° 54.6'

NOAA Chart:

Last Page Update: 6/30/2014

CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:

Pacific harbor seals haulout year round. From May-June, 800 animals have been observed here. In the first small cove just south of Point Sur, there is an elephant seal haulout area. Black swifts (CA Species of Special Concern) can be found in the cliffs.

HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:

Southwestern approximately 1/3 of Pt Sur Beach (to northeast of Pt Sur rock) is owned by California State Parks. Northeastern approximately 2/3 of beach is privately owned (El Sur Ranch.)

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 3-522.1 Objective: Offshore Containment and Recovery Activities to Minimize or Avert Oil From Impacting Shoreline Habitats and Wildlife. Prevent injury to any sand dunes from cleanup activities.

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 tvpe and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
3-522.1	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.)

Take Highway 1 south from Rio Road (in Carmel) about 20 miles. Pt. Sur Lighthouse is on the right. Conspicuous beaches are on either side of the point, with access possible from a paved road. Rocky headlands with exposed sandy beaches to north and south. Intertidal shoreline has rich biodiversity. Lighthouse located on NW side. Access thru locked gate off Hwy 1. Contact Ca Dept of Parks & Rec to access area. The adjacent beach ownership is split. The southwestern approximately 1/3 of beach is owned by California State Parks. Northeastern approximately 2/3 of beach is privately owned (El Sur Ranch.). Property on both sides of road from locked gate to restrooms at base of rock is privately owned (El Sur Ranch.) A second locked gate exists approximately 100 meters up road from the base of Pt Sur rock. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge and the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Point Sur State Marine Reserve. Site is associated with BLM California Coastal National Monument resources.

LAND ACCESS

Large truck on road; foot access only on beaches.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction
Launching, Loading, Docking
and Services Available:

Conditions permitting, small boats may be launched from the beach on the lee side of the point.

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

