

**4-150-A Site Summary - Morro Rock Ecological Reserve****4-150-A****County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - E - S003**NOAA Chart:** 18703**Map Book:** 611 D-6**Decimal Degrees:** 35.36937 -120.86761**Site Description:**

Morro Rock Ecological Reserve, Morro Bay State Park. Morro Rock is a bird sanctuary. On north side of Morro Rock is Pillar Rock, bird roosting, Coastal National Monument with BLM. Species of concern are present year-round. A breeding pair of peregrine falcons (delisted from endangered August 1999) nests on Morro Rock as well as tufted puffins, cormorants, pigeon guillemots, and western gulls. Southern sea otters can be observed offshore and in Morro Bay (large raft just inside the harbor entrance just south of Morro Rock), as well as harbor seals and California sea lions. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles offshore.

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

6B Riprap

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	tufted puffin	FP, SSC		
Birds	peregrine falcon	FP, SP	Year-round	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round	
Mammals	California sea lion	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	
Reptiles	leatherback sea turtle	FE	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	/	Central Coast Information Center	(805) 682-4711
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
E	John Hodge/Associate Field Manager	Bureau of Land Management, Coastal Natl. Monu	(661) 301-1659
O	Ted Schiafone/Harbor Manager	Morro Bay Harbor Department	(805) 772-6255
O	Melodie Grubbs/	Morro Bay National Estuary Program	(805) 772-3834
T	Leisyka Parrott/CCNM Manager	Bureau of Land Management	(707) 513-3891
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
T	Justin Viezbicke/Marine Mammal Stranding	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 506-4315
T	Tina Fahy/Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-4023
T	/Spill Response Coordinator	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal T&E Species	(805) 644-1766

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

**Additional Site Summary Comments:**

Peregrine falcons nest March - April; cormorants and pigeon guillemots breed spring - summer. Marine mammal pupping seasons: southern sea otters year-round; harbor seals March - June. Leatherback sea turtles are most commonly observed August - November.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Oil could get in rip rap and cause re-sheening. Morro Rock is a bird rookery. Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Rough surf.

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

**Strategy: 4-150.1** **Objective:** No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART  
**Strategy:** Offshore containment and recovery (OCR) are the preferred option although heavy surf may hinder these operations. No specific response equipment listed due to the many variables associated with each spill regarding OCR. Early consideration should be given to the use of applied response technologies.  
Table of Response Resources

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

**Directions:** From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 N, Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo, to Morro Bay Blvd. Exit. Go west to Embarcadero St. which turns into Coleman Dr. Coleman Dr. leads out to Morro Rock, the Ecological Preserve. From the north: Take 101 S (or 5 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S) to Main St. exit, turn right. Right onto Beach St. to Embarcadero, turn right, continue as above.

**Land Access:** Foot access to base of rock.

**On-Water Limitations:** Morro Bay boat launch area south end of Embarcadero Rd.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Staging Area: Coleman Park parking area; Duke Energy Facility. Command Post: U.S Coast Guard office in Morro Bay or Harbor Dept. office. Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 30 min, south. Paso Robles Airport is approx. 30 min. inland.

**Communications Problems:** None.





CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-150 Name: Morro Rock Ecological Reserve

A. Caputo (OSPR) & J. Gold (OSPR) Date: 10/30/2023

**No shoreline strategies;  
consider offshore strategies**