

**4-858-A Site Summary - Santa Cruz Island: Prisoners Harbor****4-858-A****County:** Santa Barbara **ACP Division/Segment:** CI - C - S000**NOAA Chart:** 18720**Map Book:** NA**Decimal Degrees:** 34.02139 -119.68389**Site Description:**

This site is on the north central side of Santa Cruz Island. Prisoners harbor has mixed sand and gravel beaches and a small creek and wetland. Nearby Chinese harbor is primarily mixed sand and gravel beach. Seabirds and shorebirds are present including pelagic cormorant, ash storm petrel, Cassin's auklet and black oystercatcher. Harbor seals and the occasional California sea lion may be present. Black abalone and extensive eelgrass and surfgrass beds are present.

**Resources at Risk:****ESI and Habitat:** 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

9B Vegetated low banks

5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

**List of Resources at Risk:**

Resource Name		Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	seabirds		Year-round	
Birds	shorebirds		Year-round	
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	Year-round	
Mammals	California sea lion	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	marine mammals	FP	Year-round	
Plants	eelgrass		Year-round	
Plants	surfgrass		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	Andrew Yamagiwa/Manager	The Nature Conservancy, Santa Cruz Island	(559) 618-1488
T	/Emergency Response Hotline	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 729-0611
T	Sean Hastings/24/7	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 705-1790
T	/Chief Ranger	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 218-0251
T	/Dispatch	Channel Islands National Park	(559) 565-4221
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:**

The Nature Conservancy owns approximately 75% of Santa Cruz Island as a preservation area. The other 25% is owned by the National Park Service.

December through August for marine mammal pupping and breeding. March through November for nesting seabirds. All year for important intertidal resources.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Santa Cruz Island is located 20 miles from the mainland and is home to large numbers of seals and sea lions as well as colonies of seabirds. At over 96 square miles, Santa Cruz Island is California's largest island and has 77 miles of craggy coastline cliffs, giant sea caves, pristine tidepools, and expansive beaches. Trustee agencies may not sanction onshore response activities. Refer to and comply with introductory section before initiating any response activities.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Conditions in the Santa Barbara Channel and around the islands are variable and the ocean is unforgiving. Only experienced skippers with vessels capable of withstanding severe weather are advised to make the cross-channel passage. Major shipping lanes lie between the islands and the mainland.

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

**Strategy: 4-858.1 Objective:** Shoreline Pre-Clean: Resource Specialist Supervision Required

**Strategy:** Refer to Channel Islands Introduction Section (especially Biosecurity) before conducting any shoreline precleaning. A natural resource trustee and/or an archaeologist (usually a CINP employee) may need to be on-site during work to ensure compliance with Channel Island response restrictions. Small hand crews of no more than 10 persons remove and store kelp, driftwood, vegetative debris, trash, and other materials which could become oiled and create environmental hazards and disposal problems. Segregate and dispose of trash. Replace unoiled debris in its former location once the threat of oiling is past.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Staff				5		

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** Only by boat or aircraft. Closest harbors are Santa Barbara and Ventura. Channel Islands Aviation is located at Camarillo Airport and is able to fly and land on the islands. All access to the Channel Islands must be coordinated with National Parks and must follow biosecurity protocols. Refer to the introductory section for more information.

**Land Access:**

**On-Water Limitations:** Vessel landing available at Prisoners Harbor (Northeast face of center of island) and Scorpion Harbor (Northeast end of island). Caution: monitor sea conditions and depth before attempting approach.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:**

**Communications Problems:** Cell phone reception is unreliable. Marine VHF or satellite phone are the best options.

**Additional Operational Comments:** Each island is equipped with at least 1 base station radio for communication with park headquarters and a marine band radio.



CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-858 Name: Santa Cruz Island: Prisoners Harbor

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**No shoreline strategies;  
consider offshore strategies**