

4-858 -A Site Summary- Santa Cruz Island: Prisoners Harbor**4-858 -A**

County: **Santa Barbara**
USGS Quad: **Santa Cruz Island C**

Thomas Guide Location
NA
NOAA Chart: **18720**

Latitude N Longitude W
34.02139 119.68389

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVISION C. North central aspect of island. 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.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

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

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Santa Cruz Island is designated as part of a National Park, a National Marine Sanctuary, an "Area of Special Biological Significance" (ASBS) and is included in the international biosphere preserve program.

Seabirds: Pelagic cormorants, ashly storm petrel, Scripps's murrelet

Shorebirds: Black oystercatchers

Harbor seals and occasional California sea lions

Black abalone and Black abalone critical habitat.

Extensive eelgrass bed, surfgrass

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist in the area, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting the Channel Islands National Park Archeologist (see contact list). Information may also be obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, the State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or the Central Coast Archeological Information Center (805) 893-7341.

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

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
T/O	24hr Emergency Cell	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 729-1271
T	David Ashe Chief Ranger (24hrs)	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 218-0251
E	Dave Dewey Preserve Manager	The Nature Conservancy - Santa Cruz Is. Preserve	(805) 319-0278
T	Kate Faulkner Chief, Natural Resources	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 804-0044
T	Russell E. Galipeau Jr. Superintendent	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 451-2199
T	Sean Hastings Emergency Operations Manager	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 729-5598
C	Kelly Minas Archeologist	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 658-5754
T	Chris Mobley Sanctuary Superintendent	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 893-6416
T	Mike Morales Supervisory Ranger (24hr)	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 804-0056
T	Mike Murray Deputy Superintendent of Programs	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 448-9971
T	Office	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 658-5720
T	Office (0800-1700)	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 893-6431
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
T	SURCOM (24-hr)	California State Parks Dispatch	(951) 443-2969
T	Stephen Whittaker Marine Biologist	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 658-5807

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.

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County and Thomas Guide Location

NA Santa Barbara

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

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Santa Cruz Island is located 20 miles from the mainland and is home to large numbers of seals and sealions 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 of 9814 before initiating any response activities.

HAZARDS 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

Onshore response strategies for protecting onshore and nearshore resources in this area are extremely limited. Whenever possible, attempt to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore locations before it reaches inshore areas or the shoreline. Before initiating any response activities within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary or Channel Islands National Park, refer to and comply with the Channel Islands Introductory section of 9814.

Strategy 4-858.1 Objective: Shoreline Precleaning - Prevent oiling of wrack, trash, and other materials to reduce collateral contamination and disposal problems.

Shoreline Precleaning - Refer to Channel Islands Introduction Section of 9814 (especially Biosecurity) before conducting any shoring 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 trash. Replace unoiled debris in its former location once the threat of oiling is past.

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.)

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 introductory section of 9814 for more information.

LAND ACCESS:

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Vessel landing available at Prisoners Harbor (Northeast face of center of island) and Scorpion and Services Available: Harbor (Northeast end of island). Caution: monitor sea conditions and depth before attempting approach.

FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: Cell phone reception unreliable. Marine VHF or Sattelite phone 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.

