

4-020-A Site Summary - La Cruz Rock**4-020-A****County :** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment :** SL - A - S 04**NOAA Chart :** 18700**Map Book :****Decimal Degrees** 35.70717 -121.31244**Site Description:**

La Cruz Rock is an offshore rock south of Point Sierra Nevada. This offshore rock is used for roosting by many birds. Sea otters and other marine mammals are common in this area. Site is considered part of the Coastal National Monument with Bureau of Land Management and is within Sea Otter Game Refuge and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Site is also within the Pierdas Blancas State Marine Reserve MPA, and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region. Beach shoreside of La Cruz Rock is part of Hearst San Simeon State Park. Species of concern are present year round. Black abalone may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Seabirds are present year-round including gulls, black oystercatchers, cormorants, brown pelicans, common murre, pigeon guillemots, grebes, scoters, loons. Leatherback sea turtles designated critical habitat offshore.

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

	Resource Name	Status	Presence
Birds	seabirds		Year-round
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	Year-round
Mammals	California sea lion	FP	Year-round
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round
Mammals	marine mammals		Year-round
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round
Reptiles	leatherback sea turtle	FE	Aug - Nov

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
E	John Hodge/Associate Field Manager	Bureau of Land Management, Coastal Natl. Monu	(661) 301-1659
O	Brian Hatfield/Marine Mammal Expert	US Geological Survey, Biological Division	(805) 927-3893
T	Becky Ota/Marine Conservation Manager	California Department of Fish & Wildlife, MPAs	(650) 631-6789
T	Steve Wertz/Senior Environmental Scientist	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marine	(562) 343-3808
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
T	Carolyn Skinder/Biologist	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 927-2145
T	Regulatory Coordinator/24hr	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 236-6797
T	Justin Viezbicke/Marine Mammal Stranding	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 506-4315
T	Melissa Neuman/Marine Biologist	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 481-4594
T	/	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:

Marine mammal pupping seasons: Southern sea otters year-round; California sea lions May - June; harbor seals March - June. Bird nesting March - September. Leatherback sea turtles most commonly observed August - November.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Clean up operations should be conducted with the advice from Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and USFWS, Sanctuary, and BLM. To protect seabirds, limit spill response activities within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds. Marine mammals and sea turtles, try to remain at least 100 yards away from marine mammals and if approached closely by a marine mammal while motoring, reduce speed and shift to neutral; do not engage props until the animals are observed at the surface, clear of the vessel. Black abalone (endangered) may be present on nearby rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round. Shoreside beach is part of Hearst San Simeon State Park. Site is within Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary, Coastal National Monument, Sea Otter Game Refuge, and Pierdas Blancas State Marine Reserve MPA. Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

Hazard and Restrictions:**Site Strategies:**

Strategy: 4-020.1 Objective: No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

Strategy: Offshore containment and recovery (OCR) is 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

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
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Logistics:

Directions: From the north: Take Hwy 101 South to Hwy 46 West to Hwy 1 N (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N). Follow Hwy 1 N approx. 10 miles north of San Simeon. From the south: From the City of San Luis Obispo, take the Morro Bay Hwy 1 exit from Hwy 101. Site is just south of Pierdas Blancas Lighthouse.

Land Access: None.

On-Water Limitations: Limitations: Depth, obstruction. Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat launch facility approx. 40 miles south.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Staging and Command Post: U.S. Geologic Survey research facility is located at the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse, approx. 3.5 miles south on Hwy 1. Staging, parking, water and phones available. State Parks office at Hearst Castle. The old Piedras Blancas motel (State Parks) is approx. 2 miles south on Hwy 1 for staging. Airports: San Luis Obispo County Airport, approx. 1 hour south. Paso Robles Airport approx. 45 min inland. There is a private landing strip for small planes north of Hearst Castle Visitor's Center, approx. 15 min. south.

Communications Problems: None.

Additional Operational Comments:

