

4-520-A Site Summary - Lion's Head to Purisima Point: North**4-520-A****County :** Santa Barbara **ACP Division/Segment :** SB - B - S01 SB - B - S02 SB - B - S03 SB - C - S01**NOAA Chart :** 18700**Map Book :** 345 C x 10-11**Decimal Degrees :** 34.8101 -120.6183**Site Description:**

Special Permission required for access through Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info). Area 1 mile SE of Lion's Head, south to the southend of Minuteman Beach (beginning of rocks 1+ mile north of Purisima Pt.) Aprox. 6 miles of gravel beach backed by rocky cliffs. Includes areas of fine to medium grained sand beaches. Grunion spawning occurs in the spring and summer (March-August) during high tides. Rocky intertidal resources occur offshore including pink, red and black abalone, rock scallop, pismo clam and California mussel. Harbor seals haulout 1/3 mile south of Lion's head. Abundant seabirds (including brown pelicans) and shorebirds are present. Surfperch are found offshore. March through September for western snowy plover nesting along the beach.

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT	Year-round
Birds	California least tern	FE, SE	Apr-Sep
Fish	grunion		Mar-Aug
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	Year-round
Invertebrates	Pismo clams		Year-round
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round
Reptiles	leatherback sea turtle critical habitat		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 Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-2474
C	/	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
E	/Law Enforcement Desk (24hr)	Vandenberg Air Force Base	(805) 606-3911
E	Wayne Moses/Chief Conservation Officer	Vandenberg Air Force Base	(805) 606-6804
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	Tina Fahy/Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-4023
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:

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

The best response options for protecting this shoreline are to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore areas before it reaches inshore areas. The dunes and upper beaches provide critical nesting habitat for Threatened/Endangered birds. These animals can be killed and habitat can be damaged by oil and by response and cleanup activities unless responders avoid disturbing the dunes and upper beaches; drive vehicles on wet sand, and follow protective conditions from IC and resource biologists.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Special Permission required for access through Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info). Unhealthy levels of coliform bacteria have been found intermittently in streams and on beaches in this area. Use appropriate PPE, safety procedures, and include reference to potential health problems in any site safety plan.

Site Strategies:

Strategy: 4-520.1 Objective: No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

Strategy: There are no feasible onshore protection strategies for this area. Attempt to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore locations before it reaches the shoreline.

Table of Response Resources

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Logistics:**Directions:**

Land Access: This site is located on Vandenberg Airforce Base. Access to beaches and land sites must be authorized through the Air Force Base. For access authorization to air base roadways, lands and shorelines responders must call the Law Enforcement desk at 805-606-3911 and the Conservation Office at 805-606-6804. An escort may be required in some locations.

On-Water Limitations: Area is rocky. Avila Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor. Facilities for small vessel loading occur at the "Boat House" in the vicinity of Rocky Point just south of Point Arguello. These facilities could be utilized with permission from VAFB.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: This area is isolated. Access to the beach is limited by cliffs and sensitive dune habitat. Beaches are interrupted by cobbles and bedrock outcroppings.

Communications Problems: Cell phone communications are limited.

Additional Operational Comments: Due to the probable occurrence of western snowy plovers and/or California least terns at this site, please review the Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategies (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with these sensitive species.

