

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
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		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 Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-2474
C	/	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
T	/24hr	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 729-1271
T	/Deputy Superintendent	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 448-9971
T	/Sanctuary Superintendent	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 259-6540
T	Operations Manager/Emergency	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 705-1790
T	Superintendent of Operations/Deputy	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 689-8920
T	/Dispatch	Channel Islands National Park	(559) 565-4221
T	/	US Fish & Wildlife Service	(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 of 9814 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:

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

Strategy: Refer to Channel Islands Introduction Section of 9814 (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 trash. Replace unoled 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 introductory section of 9814 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 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.

