

**County:** Los Angeles**ACP Division/Segment:****NOAA Chart:** 18763**Map Book:****Decimal Degrees:** 33.03408 -118.61405**Site Description:**

Castle Rock is a small (<2 square acre) offshore rock on the northwest tip of San Clemente Island. It is used by large numbers of California brown pelicans and other bird species for roosting and nesting. This site is approximately 0.33 nautical miles offshore from a small arms range on the main island. San Clemente Island has been divided into eight Safety Zones that extend away from the shoreline for three nautical miles. Castle Rock is fully contained inside of Safety Zone "G" and is always restricted to public use. All access for response on San Clemente Island or in the waters adjacent to this military base must be pre-approved by the Navy prior to entry into any of the designated Safety Zones.

**Resources at Risk:****ESI and Habitat:** 1C Exposed rocky cliffs with boulder talus base

2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	California brown pelican	FP, SP	Jun - Oct	
Birds	black oystercatcher	FP	Year-round	
Birds	Brandt's cormorant	FP	Year-round	
Birds	western gull	FP	Year-round	
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	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	/Coordinator	South Coastal Information Center	(619) 594-5682
E	Duty Officer/Patrol Watch Commander	Commander, Navy Region Southwest Coronado	(619) 545-7418
E	/Security Officer	San Clemente Island	(619) 524-9214
T	Melissa Neuman/Marine Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 481-4594
T	/Wildlife Biologist	San Clemente Island	(619) 545-7188
T	/Natural Resources Officer	US Navy, Coronado	(619) 545-1130

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:**

San Clemente Island is a military facility with restricted access at all times. Contact must be made with the Security Office to obtain permission to enter before responding to sites on this island. The Navy uses the island for live fire exercises. Responders should coordinate work with the San Clemente Island Explosive Ordnance Disposal experts prior to working on the island.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Note the presence of restricted or dangerous areas at various locations around the island. See San Clemente Island navigation chart (#18762). Safety Zone information for San Clemente Island can be found at <https://www.scisland.org/>. As a working live fire range with the potential for unexploded ordnance, initial spill response must be limited to 3nm offshore.

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

**Strategy: 6-510.1 Objective:** No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

**Strategy:** This site is difficult to protect. Mechanical protection techniques are not likely to be effective on this high energy rocky shoreline. The recommended response strategies are on-water containment and recovery (e.g. towed boom arrays) and to pursue the feasibility of using alternative technologies (e.g. dispersants and in-situ burning) to reduce the volume of oil reaching the site.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update**

*Strategy Updated: 2/19/2020*

*Last Test:*

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** The two options for travel to San Clemente Island are by aircraft or ocean worthy vessels. Coordination with Commander, Naval Base Coronado is required before attempting any response within 3 nm of the shoreline. When sea conditions allow, this rock may be approached by small craft.

**Land Access:** There are very few roads and motor vehicles available on the island. Much of the shoreline is inaccessible.

**On-Water Limitations:** Water access to this rocky coastline is limited. Routine access to the island is by barge. Contact Naval Air Station 32nd Air Station Barge Service (619) 556-1573. San Clemente Island Pier Office (619) 524-9331.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Restricted access to the limited on-site facilities may be available from the Navy upon request. The Island has a 9,300' runway, limited berthing options, limited food options, and requires demolition control escorts for safety and environmental concerns. The Navy dock at Wilson Cove is generally off limits to civilian vessels.

**Communications Problems:** Satellite phones are encouraged. Cell phones may have limited coverage near the north end of the island.

**Additional Operational Comments:** This is a military facility. Any planned emergency operations need to be coordinated with the Commander, Naval Base, Coronado for logistic support of government operations, and with the Commander, Naval Region, Southwest who is responsible for the natural resources and facilities on the island. Pre-approval of any response within 3nm of shore is mandatory.

