

1-140 -A Site Summary- Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge

1-140 -A

County: **Del Norte**
USGS Quad: **Crescent City**

Thomas Guide Location
CA Road Atlas
NOAA Chart: **18603**

Latitude N
41 47'
Longitude W
124 15'

Last Page Update :

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge is a half a mile offshore near Crescent City in northern California. This coastal rock covers approximately 14 acres, and rises steeply 335 feet above sea level. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Castle Rock Special Closure. Site is associated with BLM's California Coastal National Monument resources. Offshore rock.

Response category 5. Habitat damage could result from intrusive response. Trustees recommend against on-site response.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

CRNWR is the second largest nesting seabird colony south of Alaska (after the Farallon Islands). The estimated number of seabirds using Castle Rock has been as high as 150,000. It also has the largest breeding population of common murres in California; the latest estimate for common murres was 82,700 in 2004.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Several protected species use this rock as a protected area for nesting, roosting, pupping, and rearing young. The rocks are sensitive to human intrusion year round, especially during nesting season (03-09) when the adults are on eggs and until the young have fledged from the nest.

Aleutian cackling goose (10-11;02-04) use rock as roosting area.

California brown pelican (04-11).

Peregrine falcon (01-12).

Rhinoceros auklet and Tufted puffins (SSC), (01-12).

Seabird rookeries (03-09): Common murre, Pigeon guillemot, Leach's storm petrel, Cassin's auklet (SSC), Western gull, Brandt's and Pelagic cormorants.

Steller's sea lion (FT)(01-12).

elephant seals haul out (01-12), pupping (05-07).

Pacific harbor seal adults, sub adults, juveniles haul out (01-12).

Groundfish (EFH)

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 Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, the State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or Mr. Bryan Much, Coordinator of the Northwest Information Center (707) 588-8455.

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

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
E		Del Norte County Sheriff's Dept	(707) 464-4191
T	Ken Griggs Deputy Refuge Manager	Humboldt Bay NWR Complex-24 hr cell #2	(707) 499-2397
T	David Ledig Manager	BLM California Coastal National Monument	(831) 630-5006
T	Eric Nelson Refuge Manager	Humboldt Bay NWR Complex-24 hour cell	(707) 498-5406
T	Eric Nelson Refuge Manager	Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge	(707) 733-5406
O	Troy Nicolini	National Weather Service Woodley Island	(707) 442-2171
T	Becky Ota Marine Conservation Mgr	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
T	Bob Pagliuco	NOAA/Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service	(707) 834-2215
T	Bill Pinnix	USFWS Arcata Field Office	(707) 845-6858
T	Steve Wertz Senior Env. Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

For further information about coastal access in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Commission's California Coastal Access Guide. For photos of the coastline in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Records Project (www.californiacoastline.org).

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CA Road Atlas Del Norte

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

The rugged coastline will prevent on shore response over most of this area. Off site measures including dispersants should be considered when a spill threatens to impact this area. Overflights should be careful to maintain flight path and altitude clearance distances that are large enough to prevent the flushing of birds and marine mammals from their nests, roosts, and haul outs sanctuaries on the offshore rocks in this area.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

This is a USFWS Refuge. Access and/or response is not allowed without permission from USFWS refuge manager.

SITE STRATEGIES

This site is best protected by preventing the oil from arriving here, when possible. Off site response options including dispersants should be considered.

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.)

CONTACT REFUGE MANAGER IMMEDIATELY. Boat/avon access is extremely difficult, and not permitted without refuge manager's permission. This rock may be observed from the west end of Washington Blvd. In Crescent City. Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge is a half a mile offshore near Crescent City in northern California. This coastal rock covers approximately 14 acres, and rises steeply 335 feet above sea level. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Castle Rock Special Closure. Site is associated with BLM's California Coastal National Monument resources.

LAND ACCESS:

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Launch in Crescent City Harbor
and Services Available:

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

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

