

**3-155 -B Site Summary- Yellow Bank Creek and Beach****3-155 -B****County:** Santa Cruz**Thomas Guide Location****Latitude N****Longitude W****USGS Quad:** Santa Cruz

970

36° 59.5'

122° 10.9'

**NOAA Chart:****Last Page Update:** 6/30/2014**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Known locally as Panther Beach. Main beach is 100 yards long by 70 yards wide separated by Yellow Bank Creek and a small rock archway form another long, narrow beach to the south. Southern beach is only accessible at low to medium tides. Marsh at mouth of Yellow Bank Creek and sea cave 0.4 miles SSE of marsh. Site is associated with BLM California Coastal National Monument resources. Sandstone discolored due to natural oil intrusions.

**SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

Species of concern discussed below are present year round. This is a B priority during summer months (i.e., during periods of low or no flow, or lower tides).

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

Primary resources at risk are species of concern listed below and their respective habitats.

Black swift (CA Species of Special Concern) and Pigeon guillemots are known to utilize area.

Pinnipeds may use area as haulout at various times of year. Red legged frogs (FT) are found within watershed habitat. While not a significant gathering site, Southern Sea Otters (FT) are common throughout Santa Cruz and Monterey counties and may be present near-shore year round.

Site is located within Black Abalone Critical Habitat. Actual presence of black abalone is unknown.

Kelp beds are common near-shore.

Michael's piperia (*Piperia michaelii*, a CNPS plant species of concern)

**CULTURAL, HISTORIC, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**

Contact the California Dept of Parks and Recreation - Office of Historic Preservation (Eric Allison: 916-445-7044), and the Northwest Information Center (Bryan Much, Sonoma State College: 707-588-8455) for specific information on historic or cultural resources in this area.

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

Type	Name	Title	Organization	Phone
O			Trust for Public Land	(415) 495-5660
O			Santa Cruz County Sherriff	(831) 471-1121
O	Chris Coburn	Resources Planner	Santa Cruz County - Environmental Health Services	(831) 454-2763
T	Scott Kathey	Emergency Response Coord.	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251
E/T	David Ledig		BLM California Coastal National Monument	(831) 630-5006
E/T	James Weigand	Ecologist	BLM	(916) 978-4656

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

Yellow Bank Beach: N 36° 59.5' / W 122° 10.9'; Panther Beach: N 36° 59.2' / W 122° 10'

Black swift nest in a sea cave in a rocky coastal cliff (elev. 20 ft). Pair was observed gathering *Enteromorpha* algae from intertidal zone and carrying it to nest site (NDDb). Last seen 1988. Recreation areas.

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**CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:**

Black swift (DFG species of special concern, NDDDB). Steelhead trout present during high-flow periods.  
Michael's piperia (*Piperia michaelii*, a CNPS plant species of concern)

**HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:****SITE STRATEGIES**

Strategy 3-155.1 Objective: Exclude oil by berming, place sorbent boom 30' landward of berm to ensure oil exclusion

Maintain summertime berm at creek mouth if present, otherwise reestablish with available sediments and allow for water discharge by installing 6" PVC pipes under berm. There is no vehicle access to beach area.

**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
3-155.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300' 6" PVC pipe, dozer or equivalent berming	12	

**LOGISTICS****DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)**

Approximately 7 ¼ miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway 1, Yellow Bank Creek empties to the ocean at both Yellowbank and Panther Beaches. Yellowbank Beach is the smaller portion of the beach upcoast of the creek mouth. Panther Beach is downcoast of the mouth, and is broader and longer than Yellowbank Beach. Roadside parking, access by crossing tracks and bluff down to beach. Nearby farm roads may provide some vehicle access. Known locally as Panther Beach. Main beach is 100 yards long by 70 yards wide separated by Yellow Bank Creek and a small rock archway form another long, narrow beach to the south. Southern beach is only accessible at low to medium tides. Marsh at mouth of Yellow Bank Creek and sea cave 0.4 miles SSE of marsh. Site is associated with BLM California Coastal National Monument resources.

**LAND ACCESS** Mostly foot only. Nearby farm roads may provide some vehicle access

**WATER LOGISTICS:**

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

**FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:****COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:****ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

