

**3-470 -A Site Summary- Point Lobos State Reserve****3-470 -A****County:** Monterey**Thomas Guide Location****Latitude N****Longitude W****USGS Quad:** Monterey

1153,1173

36° 31.7'

121° 57.4'

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

Point Lobos State Reserve is a world-renowned scenic area containing a rich diversity of wildlife. The convoluted shoreline is highly varied and is dominated by steep, wave-cut points. Shoreline access varies and may be hazardous. Reserve begins at southern border of Monastery Beach down to Sandy Beach south of Pelican Point. An approx total shoreline length of 8.5 miles. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge and the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Point Lobos State Marine Reserve. Rocky headlands with convoluted shoreline. Potentially heavy surf and strong tides. Area receives moderate-heavy recreational use as a popular SCUBA access point at Whalers Cove. An underwater reserve exists along the perimeter of Whalers Cove.

**SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

Seasonally present seabirds and shorebirds. Pinnipeds utilize area as haulout and pupping areas during spring months Feb-May.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

Important site for pinnipeds and seabirds. Pinnipeds haul out at various locations, and harbor seals pup in China Cove (and possibly other sites) Feb-May. Large colony of Brandt's Cormorants nest on Bird Island, April-September. Nesting Pigeon Guillemots and Western Gulls also present, and other seabirds present year-round.

Numerous seabirds, including the brown pelicans (nests on Bird Island), additionally; cormorants, black swifts (CA Species of Special Concern), black oystercatchers, pigeon guillemots and a range of gulls are known to utilize habitat to forage and roost.

California sea lions, Stellar sea lions and harbor seals haul-out year round in several locations. Pupping season occurs Mar-May. Southern sea otters (FT) common in nearshore waters year-round. Hoary Bats are known to occur within the reserve site boundaries. Smith's Blue Butterfly (FE) utilize as habitat along with Monarch butterflies.

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

Kelp beds are common near-shore.

Marsh silverpuffs (*Microseris paludosa*), Pacific Grove Clover (State Listed Rare), Jolon clarkia (*Clarkia jolonensis*), Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) are located onsite.

**CULTURAL, HISTORIC, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**

There are significant Indian midden sites on the Reserve. One such site exists above Whalers Cove. 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
T/E/C		Monterey District	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(831) 649-2836
E		Northern Communications	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(916) 358-0333
T	Scott Kathey	Emergency Response Coord.	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251
T	Becky Ota	Marine Conservation Mgr	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
T	Steve Wertz	Senior Env. Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

High recreational use. Whaler's Cove is major SCUBA/snorkeling area (small boat launch ramp available).

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**CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:**

There are numerous seabirds including brown pelicans (nests on Bird Island) and cormorants. Black swifts (CA Species of Special Concern), can be found in the cliffs. There are significant Indian midden sites on the Reserve. One such site exists above Whalers Cove.

**HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:**

Poison Oak is abundant year round.

**SITE STRATEGIES**

Strategy 3-470.1 Objective: Offshore Containment and Recovery Activities to Minimize or Avert Oil From Impacting Shoreline Habitats and Wildlife

This site is difficult to protect as is most of the outer coast. No on-site protection is feasible.

a) Recommended response strategy is on-water containment and recovery

b) Pursue feasibility of alternative response technologies (e.g. dispersants and in-situ burning) to reduce the volume of oil reaching the site.

**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
3-470.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

**LOGISTICS**

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

Traveling South on Hwy. 1, Point Lobos is 2 miles South of the intersection of Rio Rd. in Carmel and Hwy.1. At this point, the road leads directly to the manned Entrance Station. State Park. Rangers are housed in the vicinity of the Entrance Station. At night, there is a locked gate to prevent unauthorized entry. Access by boat is also feasible via Whalers Cove. There is a launching ramp and a large parking lot. A State Park Lifeguard is based on the site. Point Lobos State Reserve is a world-renowned scenic area containing a rich diversity of wildlife. The convoluted shoreline is highly varied and is dominated by steep, wave-cut points. Shoreline access varies and may be hazardous. Reserve begins at southern border of Monastery Beach down to Sandy Beach south of Pelican Point. An approx total shoreline length of 8.5 miles. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge and the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Point Lobos State Marine Reserve.

**LAND ACCESS****WATER LOGISTICS:**

Limitations: depth, obstruction

launch in Whaler's Cove

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

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

