

3-507 -B Site Summary- Castle Rock**3-507 -B**

County:	Monterey	Thomas Guide Location	Latitude N	Longitude W
USGS Quad:	Soberanes or Point Sur	B	36° 22.8'	121° 54.9'
NOAA Chart:				

Last Page Update: 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Offshore rocks with moderate to high-energy ocean waves. Platform rocks provide haul-outs for pinnipeds and a roost for seabirds and migratory birds. Site access is difficult. Hazardous conditions abound as steep cliffs arise over heavy surf. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge. Site is associated with the following BLM California Coastal National Monument site: Castle Rock. Offshore rocks are difficult to reach and may be hazardous in heavy surf conditions. An overlook vantage point is located off the Cabrillo Highway.

SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Important seabird colony with nesting Common Murres and Brandt's Cormorants, April-September. Pinnipeds may haul out year-round, and harbor seals may use rocks for pupping, Feb-May.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Resources at risk are those species listed below and their respective habitats.

California Condors (SE/FE) frequent shoreline. Black oystercatchers, Pigeon guillemots, Brandt's cormorants, common murres, and pelagic cormorants; Large numbers of Brandt's cormorants, common murres, and pelagic cormorants roost and nest on this rock.

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. Harbor Seals and Sea lions utilize rocks as haul-outs. Pupping season Mar-May.

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

Kelp beds are common near-shore.

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
	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:

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CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:

Large numbers of Brandt's cormorants, common murre, and pelagic cormorants roost and nest on this rock.

HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:

Offshore rock accessible by boat only. Steep cliffs along coastal access points.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 3-507.1 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 tvpe and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
3-507.1	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.)

Take Highway 1 south past Rio Road (in Carmel) about 15 miles. Hurricane Point is the high point on the road past Bixby Creek bridge. It has a broad turn-out on the ocean side and is nearly always marked by pronounced winds and sightseers. It provides a good, high vantage point but no beach access. Access by boat only.

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LAND 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: An overlook vantage point is located along shoulder of the Cabrillo Highway.

