

3-511 -B Site Summary- Rocks off Hurricane Point**3-511 -B**

County: Monterey

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N

Longitude W

USGS Quad: Point Sur

B

36° 21.9'

121° 54.9'

NOAA Chart:

Last Page Update: 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Wave-cut rocks adjacent to steep rocky cliffs suitable for roosting birds. Area has potentially heavy surf and high winds. Platform rocks near shoreline provides as haul-out for pinnipeds. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge. Site is associated with BLM California Coastal National Monument resources. Access is difficult if not impossible. Hazardous conditions abound as steep cliffs arise over heavy surf.

SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Important seabird colony with nesting Common Murres and Brandt's Cormorants, April-September

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

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

Brandt's cormorants, Black oystercatchers, western gulls, common murres, pigeon guillemots, and tufted puffins (CA Species of Special Concern) are all known to utilize area as habitat. Cassin's auklet (CA Species of Special Concern) and Clark's grebe are located nearshore in coastal waters.

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. Species of special concern listed American badger (CA Species of Special Concern) are known to utilize habitat (CNNDDB).

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

Kelp beds are common near-shore.

Monterey Larkspur (*Delphinium hutchinsoniae*) occurs west off Hwy 1 on Hurricane Point.

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:

Brandt's cormorants, western gulls, common murre, pigeon guillemots, and tufted puffins (CA Species of Special Concern) roost and nest on these offshore rocks. Tufted puffins enter colonies in May, lay eggs April-August. Eggs hatch 30 days after they are laid; birds leave colonies 60 days after hatching. Peak numbers are in January and February.

HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:**SITE STRATEGIES**

Strategy 3-511.1 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
3-511.1	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. Wave-cut rocks adjacent to steep rocky cliffs suitable for roosting birds. Area has potentially heavy surf and high winds. Platform rocks near shoreline provides as haul-out for pinnipeds. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge. Site is associated with BLM California Coastal National Monument resources.

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:**

