

3-520 -A Site Summary- Point Sur Beach**3-520 -A**

County: Monterey

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N

Longitude W

USGS Quad: Point Sur

B

36° 18.7'

121° 54.6'

NOAA Chart:

Last Page Update: 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Northwest facing beach north of Pt. Sur Lighthouse. Beach area approx 1 mile long with low gradient and backed by vegetated dunes. Access thru locked gate out to Pt. Sur Lighthouse. Beach ownership is split. The southwestern approximately 1/3 of beach is owned by California State Parks. Northeastern approximately 2/3 of beach is privately owned (El Sur Ranch.) Property on both sides of road from locked gate to restrooms at base of rock is privately owned (El Sur Ranch.) A second locked gate exists approximately 100 meters up road from the base of Pt Sur rock. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge. Medium to fine sands backed by sparse vegetation providing quality habitat for the protected species listed below.

SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Western snowy plover (FT) likely present year-round; nesting likely March-September.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

All beach area is critical habitat for the western snowy plover (FT). Use caution when conducting any beach response and especially in the dunes. Snowy plovers are very difficult to see unless they're mobile. Nesting occurs March to September and site serves as rookery all year long.

Western snowy plovers (FT); other shore and seabirds including cormorants and brown pelicans. Black swifts (CA Species of Special Concern) are found in vicinity. Peregrine Falcons are known to nest on rock cliffs.

Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) overwinter in riparian canopy and Smith's Blue Butterflies are known to occur nearby. 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.

Little Sur manzanita (*Arctostaphylos edmundsii*) are known to utilize area. Seacliff buckwheat occurs in area.

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
		Foreman	El Sur Ranch	(831) 624-3514
T/E/C		Monterey District	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(831) 649-2836
T/E/C		Northern Communications	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(916) 358-0333
	Jim Hill	Owner	El Sur Ranch	(831) 624-2719
T	Scott Kathey	Emergency Response Coord.	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:

Western snowy plover (FT) can be found as well as other shore and seabirds including cormorants and brown pelicans.

HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:**SITE STRATEGIES**

Strategy 3-520.1 Objective: Offshore Containment and Recovery Activities to Minimize or Avert Oil From Impacting Shoreline Habitats and Wildlife. Prevent injury to sand dunes from cleanup activities.

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 tvoe and dear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
3-520.1	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 from Rio Road (in Carmel) about 20 miles. Pt. Sur Lighthouse is on the right. Conspicuous beaches are on either side of the point, with access possible from a paved road. Conditions permitting, small boats may be launched from the beach on the lee side of the point. Point Sur Beach is on the upcoast side of Point Sur. Northwest facing beach north of Pt. Sur Lighthouse. Beach area approx 1 mile long with low gradient and backed by vegetated dunes. Access thru locked gate out to Pt. Sur Lighthouse. Beach ownership is split. The southwestern approximately 1/3 of beach is owned by California State Parks. Northeastern approximately 2/3 of beach is privately owned (El Sur Ranch.) Property on both sides of road from locked gate to restrooms at base of rock is privately owned (El Sur Ranch.) A second locked gate exists approximately 100 meters up road from the base of Pt Sur rock. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge.

LAND ACCESS

Large truck on road; foot access only on beach.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking
and Services Available:

Conditions permitting, small boats may be launched from the beach on the lee side of the point.

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

