

3-580 -A/B Site Summary- Gorda Beaches**3-580 -A/B****County:** Monterey**Thomas Guide Location****Latitude N****Longitude W****USGS Quad:** Cape San Martin

B

35° 52.3'

121° 27.3'

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

Series of small pocket beaches located at base of steep coastal cliffs along Big Sur coastline. Site is located approx. 83 miles south of Carmel along Hwy 1. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge. Site is associated with BLM California Coastal National Monument resources. There are a series of small pocket beaches in the general area of Gorda. Beaches fronted by wave-cut platform, near the town of Gorda. Salmon Creek, an Area of Special Biological Significance owned by the U.S. Forest Service is 6 miles south of Gorda.

SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Bird rookery Dec-Mar; pinniped haul-out July-Aug. Sea otters year round.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Sea otters (FT) are located within nearshore kelp beds. Harbor seal use beaches as haul-outs with pupping season Mar-May.

Brown pelicans are common along shoreline and on water. Seabirds and shorebirds use area as roost and foraging (black oystercatchers, pigeon guillemots, western gulls).

Harbor seals and sea lions use haul-out year round. 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.

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
E/T		Monterey District	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(831) 649-2836
		Northern Communications	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(916) 358-0333
		Dispatch	US Forest Service, Los Padres	(805) 961-5727
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:

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CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:

Beaches fronted by wave-cut platform, near the town of Gorda. Salmon Creek, an Area of Special Biological Significance owned by the U.S. Forest Service (805-961-5727) is 6 miles south of Gorda.

HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:**SITE STRATEGIES**

Strategy 3-580.1 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	tvae and dear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or comment	staff deploy	Staff tend
3-580.1	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.)

There are a series of small pocket beaches in the general area of Gorda, about 12 miles south of Limekiln State Park. Gorda has a gas station and restaurant, but no other services aside from a small paved parking area. Most of the access will be by foot and over relatively low bluffs with some steep paths. Series of small pocket beaches located at base of steep coastal cliffs along Big Sur coastline. Site is located approx. 83 miles south of Carmel along Hwy 1. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge. Site is associated with BLM California Coastal National Monument resources.

LAND ACCESS Foot access only

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

beach launch only

FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

