

**4-800-A Site Summary - San Miguel Island: Point Bennett Area****4-800-A***County:* Santa Barbara **ACP Division/Segment:** CI - A - S000*NOAA Chart:* 18720*Map Book:* NA*Decimal Degrees:* 34.03 -120.45111**Site Description:**

This site extends from Tyler Bight to Otter Harbor Point. The Point Bennett area has vertical rock cliffs, exposed wave-cut platforms, and medium to coarse-grained sand beaches. This is a prime pinniped haul out, pupping and breeding area. This is also one of the largest seabird nesting areas in southern California. Castle Rock Island is a large exposed vertical rocks pinnacle offshore with many nesting seabirds. San Miguel Island Special Closure exists from Judith to Castle Rock. Judith Rock State Marine Reserve is located on the south side of this site. Richardson Rock State and Federal Marine Reserves are located farther to the northwest. Nesting birds include western snowy plover (Mar-Sep), Brandt's cormorant (Feb-Aug), western gull (Mar-Sep), ashy storm petrel (Feb-Nov), pigeon guillemot (Mar-Aug), cassin's auklet (Mar-Sep), black oystercatcher (Mar-Sep), peregrine falcon, rhinoceros auklet (May-Sep), tufted puffin (Apr-Nov), pelagic cormorant (Mar-Sep), double-crested cormorant (Mar-Aug) and leach's storm-petrel (Feb-Oct). Marine mammals include harbor seal, northern fur seal, guadalupe fur seal, California and stellar sea lion, and southern sea otter.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

1A Exposed Rocky Shore

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	seabirds		Year-round	
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	Year-round	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round	
Mammals	San Miguel Island fox	FE, ST	Year-round	
Mammals	marine mammals	FP	Year-round	

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

**List of Key Contacts:**

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/	Central Coast Information Center	(805) 682-4711
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
T	Steve Wertz/Senior Env. Scientist Supervisor	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, MPAs	(562) 343-3808
T	/Emergency Response Hotline	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 729-0611
T	Sean Hastings/24/7	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 705-1790
T	/Chief Ranger	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 218-0251
T	/Dispatch	Channel Islands National Park	(559) 565-4221
T	/Spill Response Coordinator	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal T&E Species	(805) 644-1766

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

**Additional Site Summary Comments:**

Western snowy plovers nest from Mar-Sep.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

San Miguel Island is the northernmost and farthest west of the Channel Islands, lying 55 miles northwest of Ventura. More than 100,000 seals and sea lions breed, pup, and haul out on the island's 27 miles of isolated coastline. Large numbers of sea birds' nest on San Miguel and on nearby Prince Island. Trustee agencies may not sanction onshore response activities. Refer to and comply with introductory section before initiating any response activities.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Conditions in the Santa Barbara Channel and around the islands are variable and the ocean is unforgiving. Only experienced skippers with vessels capable of withstanding severe weather are advised to make the cross-channel passage. Major shipping lanes lie between the islands and the mainland.

**Site Strategies:**

**Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 4-800.1 Objective:** No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

**Strategy:** There are no feasible onshore protection strategies for this area. Attempt to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore locations before it reaches the shoreline. Before initiating any response activities within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary or the Channel Islands National Park, refer to and comply with the Channel Islands Introductory section. Protect the Marine Protected Area (MPA) boundaries.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update**

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** Only by boat (access by boat generally not practical) or aircraft. Closest harbors are Santa Barbara and Ventura. Channel Islands Aviation is located at Camarillo Airport and is able to fly and land on the islands. All access to the Channel Islands must be coordinated with National Parks and must follow biosecurity protocols. Refer to the introductory section for more information.

**Land Access:** No road or vehicle access.

**On-Water Limitations:** High energy shoreline. Access by sea is not practical.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** None.

**Communications Problems:** Cell phone reception is unreliable. Marine VHF or satellite phone are the best options.

**Additional Operational Comments:** Each island is equipped with at least 1 base station radio for communication with park headquarters and a marine band radio.



CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-800 Name: San Miguel Island: Point Bennett Area

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**No shoreline strategies;  
consider offshore strategies**