

County: **San Luis Obispo**
 USGS Quad: **Piedras Blancas**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N
35.7072

Longitude W
121.31144

NOAA Chart: **Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700**

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division A map. La Cruz Rock is an offshore rock south of Point Sierra Nevada. This offshore rock is used for roosting by many birds. Sea otters and other marine mammals are common in this area. Site is considered part of the Coastal National Monument with Bureau of Land Management (SL-354-04) and is within Sea Otter Game Refuge and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Site is also within the Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve MPA, and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region. Beach shoreside of La Cruz Rock is part of Hearst San Simeon State Park.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Throughout Division A, black abalone (endangered) may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (proposed critical habitat); sea otters (pup Jan. - March) are common offshore. Pupping seasons for Ca sea lions May -June, harbor seals March-June. Bird nesting primarily March-September. Species of concern are present year round.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Sea birds are present year round including gulls, black oystercatchers, cormorants, brown pelicans, common murre, pigeon guillemots, grebes, scoters, loons.

High numbers of harbor seals and California sea lions haulout on this off shore rock. Southern sea otters and kelp beds can be observed offshore.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)**

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
T	Melissa Boggs Environmental Scientist	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 558-1005
T	Mike Harris Sea otter expert	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 772-1135
O	Brian Hatfield Marine mammal expert	Bio Res Div. USGS	(805) 927-3893
T	Scott Kathey Regulatory Coordinator	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251
E/T	David Ledig Manager	BLM, Coastal Natl. Monument	(831) 630-5006
T	Jenny Marrek Biologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	(805) 644-1766
T	Becky Ota	CDFW for MPAs	(650) 631-6789
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
T	Carolyn Skinder Biologist	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 927-2145
T	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969
E/T	James Weigand Ecologist	BLM Coastal Natl. Monument	(916) 978-4656
T	Steve Wertz	CDFW for MPAs	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

4-020 -A Site Strategy - La Cruz Rock

County and Thomas Guide Location

San Luis Obispo

NOAA CHART
Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700

4-020 -A

Latitude N Longitude W
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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

To protect seabirds, limit spill response activities within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds.

Marine mammals and sea turtles, try to remain at least 100 yards away from marine mammals and if approached closely by a marine mammal while motoring, reduce speed and shift to neutral; do not engage props until the animals are observed at the surface, clear of the vessel.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Clean up operations should be conducted with the advice from Dept. of Fish and Game, and USFWS, Sanctuary and BLM. Site is within Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary, Coastal National Monument, Sea Otter Game Refuge, and Pierdas Blancas State Marine Reserve MPA. Shoreside beach is part of Hearst San Simeon State Park.

Black abalone (endangered) may be present on nearby rocky intertidal habitat.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-020.1 Objective: Exclude or deflect oil from La Cruz Rock.

Offshore containment and recovery (OCR) is the preferred option although heavy surf may hinder these operations. No specific response equipment listed due to the many variables associated with each spill regarding OCR. Early consideration should be given to the use of applied response technologies.

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	Boat and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
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4-020.1

Offshore containment & recovery

LOGISTICS

DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)

Coming from the north: take Hwy 101 South to Hwy 46 West to Hwy 1 N (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N). Follow Hwy 1 N approx. 10 miles north of San Simeon.

From the south, from the City of San Luis Obispo take the Morro Bay, Hwy 1 exit from Hwy 101. Site is just south of Pierdas Blancas Lighthouse.

LAND ACCESS: none

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Morro Bay boat launch facility approx. 40 miles south.
and Services Available:

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

Staging and Command Post: U.S. Geologic Survey research facility is located at the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse, approx. 3.5 miles south on Hwy 1. Staging, parking, water and phones available. State Parks office at Hearst Castle. The old Piedras Blancas motel (State Parks) is approx. 2 miles south on Hwy 1 for staging.

Airports: San Luis Obispo County Airport, approx. 1 hour south. Paso Robles Airport approx. 45 min inland. There is a private landing strip for small planes north of Hearst Castle Visitor's Center, approx. 15 min. south.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

