

4-035 -A Site Summary- Point Piedras Blancas and Offshore Rocks**4-035 -A**

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

Thomas Guide Location
 324 F-5

Latitude N 35.6643
 Longitude W 121.2843

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

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division B map. Rocks offshore Point Piedras Blancas. Within the Coastal National Monument under Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction; federally designated Piedras Blancas Light Station Outstanding Natural Area. Site is also within the Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve and the Marine Conservation area MPA, and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region [fisheries protection areas offshore from Pt. Sierra Nevada south 5 miles and offshore 3 nautical miles]. Inland portion of property is part of Hearst San Simeon State Park.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Pupping Seasons: Elephant Seals: Dec-March, Ca Sea Lions: May -June, Harbor Seals: March-June, Sea Otter: Jan-March. Peak bird nesting is from March-September. Species are present year round.

Throughout Division B, black abalone (endangered) may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Area is also designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles, most commonly observed Aug. - Nov.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

These offshore rocks provide habitat for the largest population of brandt's cormorants in San Luis Obispo County. Other birds include breeding pair of peregrine falcons, tufted puffins (DFG species of special concern, few during summer months), pelagic cormorants, sooty shearwaters, black oyster catchers, pigeon guillemots, brown pelicans, and gulls.

Marine mammals include harbor seals, California sea lions, stellar sea lions, southern sea otters, and northern elephant seals. Year round there are approx. 650 mammals, from August to March there have been counts up to 2,000 mammals.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Contact SHPO and Native American Heritage Commission

KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
T	District Office	State Parks & Recreation Dept.	(805) 927-2065
T	Melissa Boggs Environmental Scientist	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 558-1005
T/E	Jim Buchae	Bureau of Land Management	(805) 927-2968
C	Lynn Gamble Historic Info Center	SHPO/UCSB	(805) 893-7341
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
T	David Ledig Manager	BLM, Coastal Natl. Monument	(831) 630-5006
T	Jenny Marrek Biologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	(805) 644-1766
C	Larry Meyer	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3712
T	Becky Ota	CDFW for MPAs	(650) 631-6789
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
C	SHPO	State Office of Historic Preservation	(916) 445-7000
T	Carolyn Skinder Biologist	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 927-2145
T	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969
T	Steve Wertz	CDFW for MPAs	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

4-035 -A Site Strategy - Point Piedras Blancas and Offshore Rocks

County and Thomas Guide Location
324 F-5 San Luis Obispo

NOAA CHART
Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700

4-035 -A

Latitude N Longitude W
35.6643 121.2843

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Black abalone (endangered, designated critical habitat) may be present on nearby rocky intertidal habitat. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles extends from shore out to 100 miles offshore; most commonly observed Aug - Nov. Try to remain at least 100 yards away from marine mammals and sea turtles and if approached closely by a marine mammal or turtle while motoring, reduce speed and shift to neutral; do not engage props until the animals are observed at the surface, clear of the vessel. To protect seabirds, limit spill response activities within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Site access with permission from BLM, Coastal National Monument, Jim Buchae, (805) 927-2968. Site is also within the Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve and the Marine Conservation area MPA. Inland portion of property is part of Hearst San Simeon State Park.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-035.1 Objective: Exclude/deflect oil from this area.

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 type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
-----------------	-------------	------------	-----------------	-----------	----------------------------	-----------	--------------	------------------	---	--------------	------------

4-035.1

Offshore containment & recovery

LOGISTICS

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

From the north: Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N). Lighthouse road is located at post mile marker 63.77, approx. 10 miles north of San Simeon.

From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1, Morro Bay exit, in San Luis Obispo. Continue as above.

LAND ACCESS: Primarily boat access; limited foot access to point.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

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

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

Staging area and Command Post: U.S. Geologic Survey research facility is located at the lighthouse. Staging, parking, water and phones available. State Parks office's at Hearst Castle.

Airports: SLO County Airport, approx. 1 hour south. Paso Robles Airport 1 hour inland. Private Landing strip for small planes, located north of Hearst Castle Visitors Center, approx.. 15 min south.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

