

4-045 -B Site Summary- William R. Hearst State Beach Rocky Intertidal**4-045 -B**

County: **San Luis Obispo**
 USGS Quad: **San Simeon**

Thomas Guide Location
 324 G-6

Latitude N
 35.6517

Longitude W
 121.2304

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

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division B map. Rocky intertidal habitat and offshore rocks, just north of Oak Knoll Creek, William R. Hearst State Beach. State Park property and site is within Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary and Sea Otter Game Refuge. It is used as a haulout for California sea Lions and harbor seals and elephant seals. Mixed sand and gravel beach is accessible.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Harbor seals are present here year round. Marine mammal pupping season: Harbor seals March-June; sea otters Jan-March.

Elephant seals present year round. Lowest concentrations occur in July and August. Cows and juveniles molt March-June, bulls molt June-Aug, juveniles haulout Aug-Dec. Pupping occurs December and breeding occurs late December-March.

Sea otter pupping season is Jan-March.

Throughout Division B, black abalone (endangered) may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (critical habitat). Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Black oystercatchers, pelicans, cormorants, and gulls

This is a haulout area for moderate numbers of harbor seals. Southern sea otters and kelp beds common offshore.

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
E/T	District Office	State Parks & Recreation Dept.	(805) 927-2065
T	Melissa Boggs Environmental Scientist	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 558-1005
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	Jenny Marrek Biologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	(805) 644-1766
C	Larry Meyer	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3712
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
E/T	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

4-045 -B Site Strategy - William R. Hearst State Beach Rocky Intertidal

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County and Thomas Guide Location

NOAA CHART

Latitude N Longitude W

324 G-6 San Luis Obispo

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Sensitive Biota - Nearshore waters include sensitive rafting areas for birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals. To protect seabirds, limit spill response activities within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds when possible. 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.

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

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Hearst San Simeon State Park property and site is within Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary and Sea Otter Game Refuge.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-045.1 Objective: Exclude/deflect oil from this rocky intertidal 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
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4-045.1

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 approx. 20 miles to W.R. Hearst State Beach (or take HWY 5 S to HWY 41 W to Hwy 46 W to HWY 1 N).

From the south: Hwy 101 in San Luis Obispo take Morro Bay exit Hwy 1 N, approx. 35 miles to WR Hearst State Beach.

LAND ACCESS: Can climb down cliffs to beach, foot access only

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat launch facility approx. 35 mile south.

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

Airports: SLO County Airport, approx. 1 hour south. Paso Robles Airport approx. 45 min inland. Private Landing strip for smaller planes, located north of Hearst Castle Visitors Center, approx. 5 min. south.

Potential Staging area: Cliffs above site can be used for staging.

Command Post: Piedras Blancas Lighthouse or motels in San Simeon or State Parks office at Hearst Castle.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

