

County: **Santa Barbara**  
 USGS Quad: **Guadalupe**

Thomas Guide Location  
 345 B-C x 9-10  
 NOAA Chart: **18700**

Latitude N **34.89**  
 Longitude W **120.586667**

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DIVISION A. Special Permission required for access through Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info). Point Sal east to, and including Point Sal state beach and southeast to lion rock. Sand beach bounded at north & south by rocky cliffs. Primarily exposed rock cliffs and wave-cut platforms backed by cliffs with rock pinnacles offshore; lion rock is the largest with a fine to medium-grained sand beach at the SE end. Point Sal State Beach characterized by fine to medium-grained sand. This is a high energy environment with west and south exposure.

**SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

January through June for harbor seals pupping and breeding. All year: moderate concentrations of Calif sea lions and high concentrations of seabirds, plus rich intertidal and shallow sub-tidal biota, including black abalone (FE). Black abalone critical habitat. Spring and Fall: moderate concentrations of Northern elephant seals and Stellar sea lions, low numbers of Northern fur seals. Leatherback turtle critical habitat.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

Rocky intertidal (all year).

Pigeon guillimont (all year), Rhinoceros auklet (all year), Pelagic cormorant (all year), Western gull (all year).

Harbor seals (Mar-Jun), Calif sea lions (May-Aug), Northern elephant seals, Stellar sea lions, Northern fur seals, Southern sea otter.

Grunion (Mar-Sep), surfperch, rockfish.

Black abalone (all year). Very rich, diverse algal and invertebrate community.

**CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist on VAFB, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting Ryan Christopher, Chief Cultural Resources VAFB (805) 605-0748, Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or the Central Coast Archeological Information Center (805) 893-7341.

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

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
T	Channel Coast Distict	California State Parks	(805) 585-1850
E	George Croll Environmental Compliance	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-4749
E	Tom Devenoge Wildlife Biologist	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 605-2015
O	Emergency Command Post	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-9961
E	Rhys Evans Biologist (Birds and Otters)	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-4198
T	Federally listed T/E species - Ventura Office	USFWS	(805) 644-1766
E	Fish and Game Office (Access, ATV, Guides)	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-6804
C	Lynn Gambell Coordinator	Central Coast Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-7341
T	Mike Harris Marine Biologist	CDFW - OSPR (Marine Mammals & Sea Otters)	(831) 212-7090
T	Kai Lampson Marine Biologist	CDFW - (Nearshore Species)	(805) 965-7216
E	Law Enforcement Desk (24hrs)	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-3911
C	Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO)	California State Parks (Sacramento Office)	(916) 445-7000
E	Operator	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-1110
E	Edward Panas Chief Game Warden	Vandenberg AFB (Wildlife Protection)	(805) 606-6804
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
O	Public Affairs (Media Events)	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-3595
E	Rangeland Manager	Vandenberg AFB (Access to range lands)	(805) 606-3271
E	Christopher Ryan Chief Cultural Resources	Vandenberg AFB (Cultural Resources)	(805) 605-0748
T	SURCOM (24-hr)	California State Parks Dispatch	(951) 443-2969

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

RPI-ESI maps (Central Coast Atlas)

# 4-505 -A Site Strategy - Point Sal

County and Thomas Guide Location  
345 B-C x 9-10 Santa Barbara

NOAA CHART  
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4-505 -A  
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## CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Primary spill threat from marine source. Inshore waters and shorelines contain sensitive habitat for invertebrates, birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals which can be injured or killed by oil. Because there are no practicable onshore response strategies for protecting these resources and the shorelines are virtually inaccessible except by foot traffic, landing craft or helicopter, it is best to collect and/or disperse oil offshore, before it reaches inshore areas or the shoreline.

## HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Special Permission required for access via Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info). Safety Considerations- Roads, trails, beach cliffs and hillsides may be unstable in wet weather. Beware of flashfloods in canyons during rainy weather, ticks, poison oak, and rattlesnakes. Beware of trains at unregulated Railroad Crossings. Care must be taken when working on beaches backed by high cliffs. Safe entries to, and exits from beaches in this area are affected by tides and beach sand levels- YOU MAY GET STRANDED ON THE BEACH - Plan accordingly.

## SITE STRATEGIES

NO SITE SPECIFIC ONSHORE PROTECTION STRATEGY FEASIBLE: There are no practicable onshore response strategies for protecting onshore and nearshore resources in this area. Attempt to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore locations before it reaches inshore areas or the shoreline.

## Table of Response Resources

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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## LOGISTICS

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

From Highway I (west of Santa Maria) take Brown Road west to dirt and tarmac Point Sal Road. Note: Point Sal Road may be impassable in winter.

### LAND ACCESS:

This site is located on Vandenberg Airforce Base. Access to beaches and land sites must be authorized through the Air Force Base. For access authorization to air base roadways, lands and shorelines responders must call the Law Enforcement Desk @ 805-606-3911 and the Fish and Wildlife Office @ 805-606-6804. An escort may be required in some locations.

### WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Area is rocky.

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available:

Avila Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor. Facilities for small vessel loading occur at the "Boat House" in the vicinity of Rocky Pt. just south of Pt Arguello. These facilities could be utilized with permission from VAFB. Area is rocky.

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

Use Point Sal beach State Beach Park as staging area.

### COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

Cell phone communications are limited.

### ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

