

County: **Santa Barbara**
 USGS Quad: **San Miguel Island West**

Thomas Guide Location
 NA
 NOAA Chart: **18720**

Latitude N Longitude W
 34.03 120.45111

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVISION A. From Tyler Bight to Otter Harbor Pt. The Pt 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 seabirds nesting areas in southern California. Castle Rock Island is a large exposed vertical rocks pinnacle offshore. San Miguel Island Special Closure exists from Judith to Castle Rock.

Richardson Rock State and Federal Marine Reserves is located farther to the northwest.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

All year for high concentrations of marine mammals pupping and breeding and nesting seabirds.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

San Miguel Island is designated as part of a National Park, a National Marine Sanctuary, an "Area of Special Biological Significance" (ASBS) and is included in the international biosphere preserve program.

March through July for nesting seabirds. All year for high concentrations of sea birds.

Nesting seabirds include: Snowy plover (Mar - Sept), brant's cormorant, western gull, ashy storm petrel, pigeon guillemot, and cassin's auklet. Castle Rock: Ashy storm-petrel (Feb-Nov), Brandt's cormorant (Feb-Aug), Cassin's auklet (Mar-Sep), Pigeon guillemot (Mar-Aug), Western gull (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), Leach's storm-petrel (Feb-Oct).

Harbor seals, northern fur seals, guadalupe fur seals, sea lions, and possibly several sea otters.

Black abalone and Black abalone critical habitat

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist in the area, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting the Channel Islands National Park Archeologist (see contact list). Information may also be obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, the 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/O	24hr Emergency Cell	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 729-1271
T	David Ashe Chief Ranger (24hrs)	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 218-0251
T	Kate Faulkner Chief, Natural Resources	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 804-0044
T	Russell E. Galipeau Jr. Superintendent	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 451-2199
T	Sean Hastings Emergency Operations Manager	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 729-5598
C	Kelly Minas Archeologist	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 658-5754
T	Chris Mobley Sanctuary Superintendent	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 893-6416
T	Mike Morales Supervisory Ranger (24hr)	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 804-0056
T	Mike Murray Deputy Superintendent of Programs	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 448-9971
T	Office	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 658-5720
T	Office (0800-1700)	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 893-6431
T	Becky Ota Marine Conservation Manager	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
T	SURCOM (24-hr)	California State Parks Dispatch	(951) 443-2969
T	Steve Wertz Senior Environmental Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184
T	Stephen Whittaker Marine Biologist	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 658-5807

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

REFERENCES: 1. RPI-ESI MAPS (SOUTHERN CALIF ATLAS)

4-800 -A Site Strategy - San Miguel Island: Point Bennett Area

County and Thomas Guide Location

NA Santa Barbara

NOAA CHART

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4-800 -A

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

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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 of 9814 before initiating any response activities.

HAZARDS 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

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. Before initiating any response activities within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary or Channel Islands National Park, refer to and comply with the Channel Islands Introductory section of 9814.

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.)

Only by boat (access by boat generally not practicle) 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 introductory section of 9814 for more information.

LAND ACCESS: No road or vehicle access.

WATER LOGISTICS: High energy shoreline. Access by sea not practical.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking None.

and Services Available:

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

None.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: Cell phone reception unreliable. Marine VHF or Sattelite phone 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.

