

4-829 -A Site Summary- Santa Rosa Island: Skunk Point Area

4-829 -A

County: **Santa Barbara**
 USGS Quad: **Santa Rosa Island South (digital)**

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

Latitude N Longitude W
 33.986667 120.025

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVISION B. The NE part of Santa Rosa Island, from the "Southeast Anchorage" area to East Point. Primarily medium to coarse-grained sand beaches and wave-cut rock platforms. Some areas offshore of this site are included in the Skunk Point State Marine Reserve.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

December through June for harbor seals pupping and breeding.
 May through August for Calif sea lions. December to July for elephant seals. March through July for nesting seabirds.

All year for high concentrations of marine mammals, seabirds, and important intertidal resources

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Santa Rosa 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.

Intermittant coastal wetlands.

Black oystercatchers (Mar-Sep), Brandt's cormorant (Feb-Aug), Pelagic cormorants (Mar-Sep), Pigeon guillemot (Mar-Aug), Western gull (Mar-Sep), Surf scooter, Waterfowl, Western snowy plovers winter and bred (Mar-Sept) along the sandy beaches.

Harbor seals (Mar-Jun), Common dolphin, California sea lion (May-Aug), Island fox.

Pismo clams.

Surf grass beds, Giant Kelp, Extensive eelgrass bed.

Two rare and endangered plants exist near the coastline that include *Dudleya blochmaniae* ssp. *insularis* and *Dudleya gnoma*.

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	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)

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Santa Rosa Island is located 40 miles west of Ventura and is home to large numbers of seals and sealions as well as colonies of seabirds. This site has seasonal marine mammal pupping and breeding from December through August and nesting seabirds from March through July. 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

Onshore response strategies for protecting onshore and nearshore resources in this area are extremely limited. Whenever possible, 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.

Strategy 4-829.1 Objective: Shoreline Precleaning - Prevent oiling of wrack, trash, and other materials to reduce collateral contamination and disposal problems.

Shoreline Precleaning - Refer to Channel Islands Introduction Section of 9814 (especially Biosecurity) before conducting any shoring precleaning. A natural resource trustee and/or an archaeologist (usually a CINP employee) may need to be on-site during work to ensure compliance with Channel Island response restrictions. Small hand crews of no more than 10 persons remove and store kelp, driftwood, vegetative debris, trash, and other materials which could become oiled and create environmental hazards and disposal problems. Segregate and dispose trash. Replace unoiled debris in its former location once the threat of oiling is past.

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 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:

WATER LOGISTICS: Access to the island by water is available at the pier in Bechers Bay.

Limitations: depth, obstruction
Launching, Loading, Docking
and Services Available:

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

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.

