

**4-045-B Site Summary - Rocky Intertidal - Hearst State Beach****4-045-B****County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - B - S02**NOAA Chart:** 18700**Map Book:** 324 G-6**Decimal Degrees:** 35.65167 -121.23143**Site Description:**

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. Southern sea otters common offshore. Black abalone may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles. Black oystercatchers, pelicans, cormorants, and gulls common. Harbor seals are present here year round. Northern elephant seals present year-round.

**Resources at Risk:****ESI and Habitat:** 2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round	
Mammals	Northern elephant seal	FP	Year-round	
Reptiles	leatherback sea turtle	FE	Aug - Nov	

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

**List of Key Contacts:**

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/	Central Coast Information Center	(805) 682-4711
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
T	/Emergency Responder, 24-hr	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 236-6797
T	Justin Viezbicke/Marine Mammal Stranding	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 506-4315
T	Melissa Neuman/Marine Biologist	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 481-4594
T	Tina Fahy/Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-4023
T	/Spill Response Coordinator	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal T&E Species	(805) 644-1766

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

**Additional Site Summary Comments:**

Marine mammal pupping seasons: Harbor seals March - June; southern sea otters January - March; northern elephant seals December - March. Leatherback sea turtles most commonly observed August - November.

**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 (designated critical habitat). Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

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

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 4-045.1 Objective:** No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART  
*Strategy:* 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.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update****Logistics:**

*Directions:* 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 5S 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.

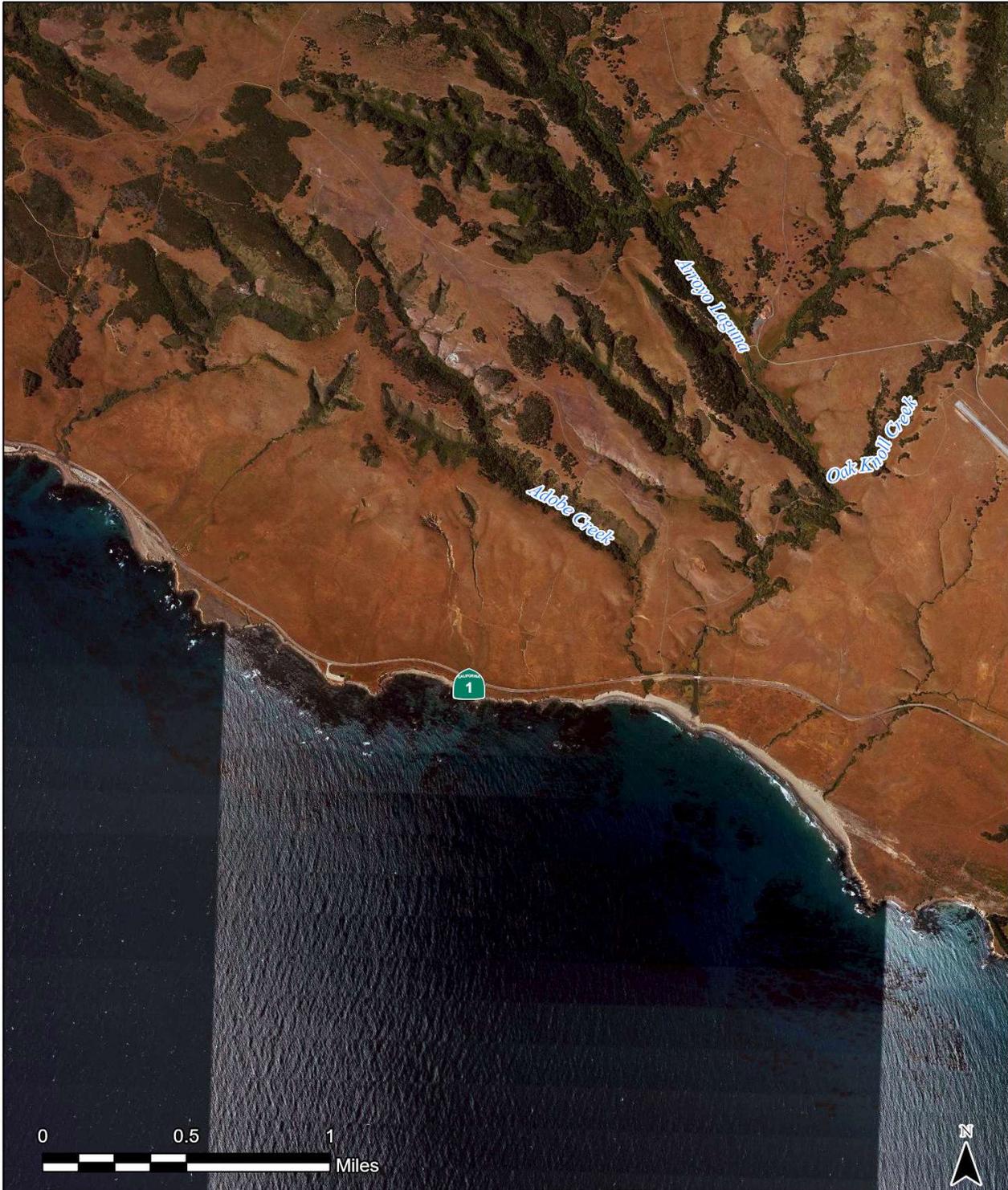
*Land Access:* Can climb down cliffs to beach, foot access only.

*On-Water Limitations:* Limitations: Depth, obstruction. Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat launch facility approx. 35 mile south.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* 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:* None.

*Additional Operational Comments:*



CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-045 Name: William R. Hearst State Beach Rocky Intertidal

A. Caputo (OSPR) & J. Gold (OSPR) Date: 10/31/2023

**No shoreline strategies;  
consider offshore strategies**