

*County:* Santa Barbara *ACP Division/Segment:* CI - C - S000*NOAA Chart:* 18720*Map Book:* NA*Decimal Degrees:* 33.95056 -119.82444**Site Description:**

This site extends from Punta Arena to Near Point on the south-west corner of Santa Cruz Island on The Nature Conservancy Property. The Punta Arena area is primarily wave-cut platforms and medium to coarse-grained sand beaches. Gull Island is an offshore large exposed vertical pinnacle rock. Some offshore areas of this site are included in the Gull Island State Marine Reserve. California brown pelicans roost year-round. Nesting seabirds include Brandt's and pelagic cormorants, Cassin's auklet and western gull. Rocky intertidal habitat can be found offshore including black abalone.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 4 Coarse-grained sand beaches

2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

1A Exposed Rocky Shore

**List of Resources at Risk:**

Resource Name		Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	seabirds		Year-round	
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	Year-round	
Mammals	California sea lion	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	

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
E	Andrew Yamagiwa/Manager	The Nature Conservancy, Santa Cruz Island	(559) 618-1488
T	Steve Wertz/Senior Env. Scientist Supervisor	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, MPAs	(562) 343-3808
T	/Emergency Response Hotline	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 729-0611
T	Sean Hastings/24/7	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 705-1790
T	/Chief Ranger	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 218-0251
T	/Dispatch	Channel Islands National Park	(559) 565-4221
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:**

The Nature Conservancy owns approximately 75% of Santa Cruz Island as a preservation area. The other 25% is owned by the National Park Service.

December through May for harbor seals pupping and breeding. March through November for nesting seabirds. All year as haul out site for harbor seals and California sea lions and for high concentrations of seabirds.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Santa Cruz Island is located 20 miles from the mainland and is home to large numbers of seals and sea lions as well as colonies of seabirds. At over 96 square miles, Santa Cruz Island is California's largest island and has 77 miles of craggy coastline cliffs, giant sea caves, pristine tidepools, and expansive beaches. Trustee agencies may not sanction onshore response activities. Refer to and comply with introductory section before initiating any response activities.

**Hazard 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:****Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 4-878.1 Objective:** Shoreline Pre-Clean: Resource Specialist Supervision Required

**Strategy:** Refer to Channel Islands Introduction Section (especially Biosecurity) before conducting any shoreline 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

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Staff				5		

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** 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 for more information.

**Land Access:**

**On-Water Limitations:** Vessel landing available at Prisoners Harbor (Northeast face of center of island) and Scorpion Harbor (Northeast end of island). Caution: monitor sea conditions and depth before attempting approach.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:**

**Communications Problems:** Cell phone reception is unreliable. Marine VHF or satellite phone are 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.



CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-878 Name: Santa Cruz Island: Punta Arena to Near Point

A. Caputo (OSPR) & J. Gold (OSPR) Date: 12/12/2023

**No shoreline strategies;  
consider offshore strategies**