

County: Ventura

ACP Division/Segment: CI - D - S000

NOAA Chart: 18720

Map Book: NA

Decimal Degrees: 34.00444 -119.39861

**Site Description:**

The three islets (west, middle, and east) that make up Anacapa Island are oriented in an east-west direction, making it very long and narrow. The north side is primarily exposed vertical rock cliffs, with a few pocket beaches, while the south side is a combination of wave-cut rock platforms, vertical cliffs, and pocket beaches. Much of the northern offshore area of Anacapa Island is included in either the Anacapa Island State and Federal Marine Reserves or the Marine Conservation Areas. A special closure also exist for Anacapa Island. Footprint State and Federal Marine Reserves is located southwest of this site. California brown pelican, Cassin's auklet, Scripps's murrelet, double-crested, Brandt's and pelagic cormorant, black oystercatcher, pigeon guillemot and western gull nest on this island. There is a rich and diverse rocky intertidal habitat including surf grass and eelgrass beds and black abalone.

**Resources at Risk:**

ESI and Habitat: 4 Coarse-grained sand beaches

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

1C Exposed rocky cliffs with boulder talus base

**List of Resources at Risk:**

Resource Name		Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	seabirds		Year-round	
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	Year-round	
Invertebrates	rocky intertidal invertebrates		Year-round	
Mammals	California sea lion	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	
Plants	eelgrass		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
T	Steve Wertz/Senior Env. Scientist Supervisor	Califorina 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:**

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:**

Anacapa Island is located 11 miles from the mainland and is home to large numbers of seals and sea lions as well as colonies of seabirds. The three islets (west, middle, and east) that make up Anacapa Island are oriented in an east-west direction and a boat is required to travel from one islet to another. 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: 4-880.1 Objective:** No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART  
*Strategy:* 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.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update**

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* Only by boat. Closest harbors are Santa Barbara and Ventura. All access to the Channel Islands must be coordinated with National Parks and must follow biosecurity protocols. Refer to introductory section for more information. The three islets (west, middle, and east) that make up Anacapa Island are oriented in an east-west direction, making it very long and narrow.

*Land Access:* No road or vehicle access.

*On-Water Limitations:* Vessel landing available at Landing Cove (north face of island on the east end). Caution-monitor sea conditions and depth before attempting approach.

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

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



CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-880 Name: Anacapa Island

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

**No shoreline strategies;  
consider offshore strategies**