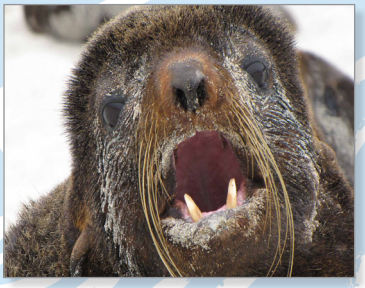


Northern Fur Seal. Photo: Tony Orr, NOAA

Pacific Harbor Seal. Photo: Robin Lindsey

Northern Elephant Seal. Photo: Tony Orr, NOAA

California Sea Lion. Photo: Kristin Wilkinson, NOAA

SHARE THE SHORE with Seals & Sea Lions

Enjoy watching Marine Mammals in a safe, responsible way.

1. **Give animals space. Move away at the first sign of disturbance or agitation.**
   Seals and sea lions on land are easily disturbed and may change position, move away, flee, trample or abandon pups. Animals may become stressed and repeated interruptions by you and others may be harmful to their health. Even if you don't see these reactions, keep yourself a safe distance to make sure you are not disrupting their behavior.

2. **Be considerate of mothers and pups.**
   Seals and sea lions come ashore to rest, regulate their body temperature, and nurse their young. It is normal for mothers to leave pups behind while they are feeding offshore (up to 24 hours). Keep your distance so mom can return to care for her pup.

3. **Keep pets away and on a leash.**
   Pets can disturb or harm wildlife, or may separate mothers from their pups. These are wild animals that can injure or spread disease to pets and humans.

4. **For your safety and the health of the animals, we recommend staying 100 yards away from all marine mammals on shore.**

NOAA FISHERIES

Share the Shore! Enjoy watching Marine Mammals from a safe distance

All marine mammals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. It is against the law to feed or harass them, which includes disrupting important behaviors, such as resting, feeding, nursing, or breeding.

For more information: http://bit.ly/SharetheShore
For information on regulations for boaters: www.bewhalewise.org

NOAA FISHERIES

If you see a dead, injured or stranded marine mammal call

(866) 767-6114

You will be asked to provide the location and a description of the animal.

Watch for these Marine Mammals

The West Coast provides many opportunities to observe seals and sea lions as they swim, rest, or tend to their young. For your safety and the animals' health, never approach or interact with a marine mammal.

Find a safe distance to view these wild animals. Bring your binoculars and enjoy spotting local seals and sea lions.

NOAA FISHERIES

SHARE THE SHORE with Seals & Sea Lions

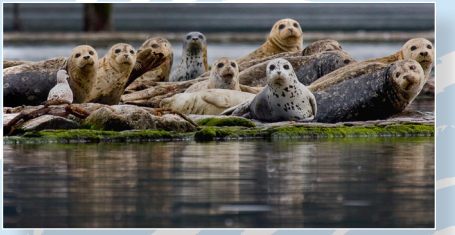
California Sea Lions. Photo: Lynne Barre, NOAA

California Sea Lions

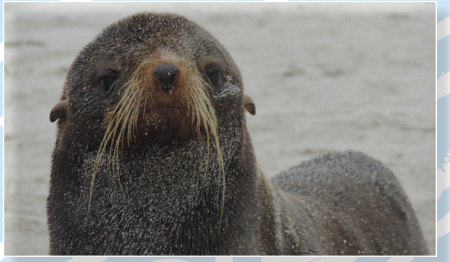
Adult females average 220 lbs, and are blond-tan with a slender body. Males may reach 800 lbs, with large shoulders and neck, a pronounced forehead, and are light brown to dark brown. Pups have a brown-black coat. California sea lions haul out on sandy beaches, rock reefs, ledges, breakwaters, buoys, and docks, and on offshore islands from Baja California to British Columbia. Pups are born during the spring and summer.

Pacific Harbor Seals

Adults can weigh up to 250 lbs. Their fur is light tan-silver with dark spots, or black with light spots. Coats are darker in the southern range than in the northern range. They haul out year-round on nearshore beaches and mudflats, and along bays and estuaries, in coastal areas from Baja California to Alaska. Pups are born from late winter to mid-fall, depending on location.



Pacific Harbor Seals. Photo: Robin Lindsey



Northern Fur Seal. Photo: Kristin Wilkinson, NOAA

Northern Fur Seals

Adult females average 140 lbs, with brown-gray fur that becomes lighter along the lower chest. Males average 600 lbs with a massive chest, stiff mane, and brown-black fur. Both have large hind flippers, a stocky body, small head, and a pointed snout. Pups have a black coat. They are found in the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea, including islands off of California, only coming ashore to breed. Pups are born late in the spring.

Northern Elephant Seals

Adult females weigh 900-1,800 lbs. Males weigh up to 5,000 lbs, and may have a heavily calloused and scarred chest. Both have a fleshy nose and light to dark brown fur. Pups have a black coat. They are found from Baja California to the Gulf of Alaska/Aleutian Islands, traveling widely in the Northern Pacific and along the Northwest coast, hauling out on beaches, offshore islands, and the mainland for breeding and molting. Pupping and breeding are during the winter season.

Northern Elephant Seals. Photo: Eric Boerner, NOAA

Steller Sea Lions. Photo: Vladimir Burkanov, NOAA

Steller Sea Lions

Adult females average 800 lbs and males average 2,500 lbs. Their head, chest, and neck area is large with a thick mane. Both sexes have a blonde to reddish body with a dark chest and flippers. Pups have a dark brown-black coat. They haul out on rock reefs, ledges, and beaches along the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, as far south as central California, traveling widely during the non-breeding season. Pups are born late in the spring.