

Marine Mammals of Puget Sound

Pinnipeds: Seals & Sea Lions

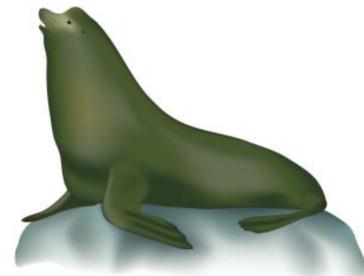


Pacific Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina*

Adults mottled tan or blue-gray with dark spots
Male: 6'/300 lbs; Female: 5'/200 pounds
Earless (internal ears, with externally visible hole)
Short fur-covered flippers, nails at end
Drags rear flippers behind body
Vocalization: "maah" (pups only)
Most common marine mammal in Puget Sound
Shy, but curious. Pupping occurs June/July in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and San Juan Islands

Northern Elephant Seal *Mirounga angustirostris*

Brownish-gray
Male: 10-12'/4,000-5,000 lbs.
Female: 8-9'/900-1,000 lbs.
Internal ears (slight hole)
Short fur-covered flippers, nails at end
Drags rear flippers behind body
Vocalization: Guttural growl or belch
Elephant seals are increasing in number in this region



California Sea Lion *Zalophus californianus*

Dark brown to black
Male: 8'/800 lbs; Female: 6'/250 lbs.
Extended, rolled flap ears
Long leathery flippers, nails mid-flipper
Walks on all four flippers; doglike bark
Mainly male California sea lions are seen from fall to spring in the Puget Sound region

Steller Sea Lion *Eumetopias jubatus*

Light to golden brown
Male: 9-12'/1500-2000 lbs.
Female: 6-7'/600-700 lbs.
Extended, rolled flap ears
Long leathery flippers with nails mid-flipper
Walks on all four flippers; deep lion-like roar
Found mostly in northern waters in our region
Listed under the Endangered Species Act



Cetaceans: Whales, Dolphins and Porpoise

Seal Pups



If you see a seal pup
alone on the beach
DO NOT DISTURB

it's the law!

Human encroachment can stress the pup and scare the mother away.
For your safety and the health of the pup, leave the pup alone. Do not touch!

Orca (or Killer Whale) *Orcinus orca*

Black body with white chin, belly, and eyepatch
Average 23-26'/4-8 tons
Southern Resident (salmon-eating) orcas are Endangered, travel in larger pods
Transient (marine mammal-eating) orcas travel in smaller pods
Orcas are most often observed in inland waters fall through spring; off San Juan Islands in summer



Harbor Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

Dark gray or black
Lighter sides and belly
Average 5-6'/120 lbs.
Travels alone or groups of 2-10



Dall's Porpoise *Phocoenoides dalli*

Black body/white belly and sides
White on dorsal fin trailing edge
Average 6-7'/300 lbs.
Travels alone or in groups of 2-20 or more
Creates "rooster tail" spray
Likes to bow-ride



Gray Whale *Eschrichtius robustus*

Gray with white mottling/barnacles
No dorsal fin, has "knuckles" or knobs on back
Average 40-50'/33 tons, heart-shaped blow
Small resident population feeds in Saratoga Passage and Puget Sound March through May, stragglers year-round

GOT WHALES?
To Report Whale Sightings
Call 1-866-ORCANET (672-2638)

**REPORT DEAD OR STRANDED
MARINE MAMMALS TO:**

1-866-ORCANET (672-2638)

or

360-678-3765

Whidbey and Camano Islands,
Skagit and North Snohomish Counties
(All other areas call 206-526-6733)

www.orcanetwork.org

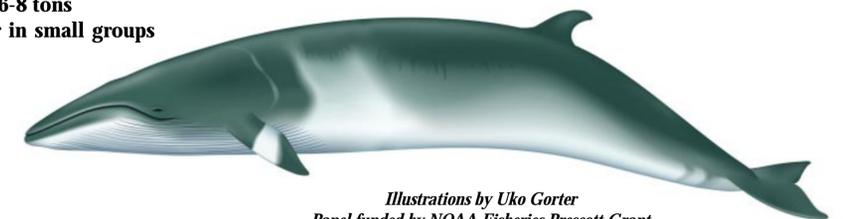
www.orcanetwork.org/strandings.html



Minke Whale

Balaenoptera acutorostrata

Black/dark gray, light undersides, white patch on flippers.
Small, sleek body, pointed head, short curved dorsal fin
Average 26-28'/6-8 tons
Travels alone or in small groups



Illustrations by Uko Gorter
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