

## What to do when you find a marine mammal on the beach

- ~ Stay at least 50 - 100 yards away, whether in the water or on shore, to prevent disturbance or harassment
- ~ Keep dogs and other people away - marine mammals carry diseases transmissible to humans, pets and livestock, and they can BITE!

~ Report the animal if it is:

Dead or appears injured or sick

A live cetacean on any shore

A live pinniped on shore in a public place or on a busy beach



~ If you find a seal pup on the beach: its mother is likely feeding near by.

Please do **not**:

approach or pour water on it, encourage it back into the ocean, or attempt to feed or remove the pup from the beach - it is unsafe for you and the pup, and is illegal.

Please **do**:

Report the pup if it remains on the beach for more than 24 hours with no sign of its mother returning, if it appears injured or starving, or if it is being harassed by people or dogs.



For more information, go to:  
[www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov)

## What is the Central Puget Sound Marine Mammal Stranding Network?



**Stranding Networks** respond to dead and live strandings of marine mammals on the beach. Volunteer stranding networks were established in all coastal states and are authorized through Letters of Authority from the National Marine Fisheries Service regional offices. Through a National Coordinator and five regional coordinators, NMFS oversees, coordinates, and authorizes these activities and provides training to personnel.

**Central Puget Sound MMSN** is a partnership between Orca Network, Island County/WSU Beach Watchers, wildlife veterinarians and biologists, and NMFS, with trained staff and volunteers.

## What do we do?

- ~ Respond to strandings in Island, Skagit and North Snohomish Counties
- ~ Act as liaison between government agencies and the general public
- ~ Collect data for the National Marine Mammal database via photographs and written reports
- ~ Collect specimens for research, testing, and educational display
- ~ Provide public education and safety information to avoid adverse reactions between people and marine mammals

## Marine Mammal Protection

Marine mammals are protected by the federal *Marine Mammal Protection Act*. It is a violation of this law to harass, touch, move, feed or kill ANY marine mammal. You can be fined up to \$10,000 per violation. Some marine mammals in our area also have additional protection under the *Endangered Species Act*, including Southern Resident orcas and Steller Sea Lions.