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 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.