

Northern Fur Seal

Callorhinus ursinus



- Eared seal (has external ear flaps)
- Coat color of adult males is dark brown to black and they have gray hair on the back of their necks; adult females have two distinct colors on their bodies - their back is dark gray or brown and their throat, chest and stomach are light gray, silver or cream; fur covers the top half of their fore flippers and ends abruptly at the wrist which is referred to as “short sleeves”
- Have a stocky body with a small head and a very short snout
- Walk on all four flippers on land; swim by using front flippers as oars
- Solitary species spending 80% of their lives foraging at sea; come ashore only to breed, give birth and infrequently to rest
- Pelagic (open ocean) dwelling
- Pups are born in June
- 10 - 12 pounds at birth
- 1 pup is born each year and nurses for 4 - 5 months
- Adult males are much bigger with larger necks, shoulders and chests
- Adult males weigh up to 600 pounds, have a straight length of up to 7 feet
- Adult females weigh up to 120 pounds, have a straight length of up to 5 feet
- Pups molt their black coat in September and October, older animals molt their long and coarse outer layer of fur in October and November
- Life span is 10 years for males and 26 years for females
- Range is the Pacific Rim from Japan to the Channel Islands of California
- Strand because of malnutrition, trauma, domoic acid and communicable diseases as well as entanglement in fishing gear and marine debris also very sensitive to climate change
- Strand from October - January
- Marine mammal protection act lists population as depleted
- CIMWI rescues 1 - 4 Northern fur seals each year