



Zalophus californicus

California Sea Lion

Geography and Habitat

1. Large mammal inhabiting the Pacific Coast from Vancouver to Baja California.
2. The normal body temperature of 37°C.
3. Composed of 3 geographically isolated populations numbering between 70,000-150,000.
4. The great majority of these live between the Farallon Islands near San Francisco and the Gulf of California south to the tip of Baja.
5. California sea lions usually come ashore on windward sides of cool fog-shrouded islands, offshore rocks or islets.



Ecological and Economical Impacts

1. California sea lions are becoming frequent visitors to Alaska as native Stellar sea lion numbers plummet.
2. Many of the prey species of California sea lions are also commercially fished, leading to widespread interactions between sea lions and some fisheries.
3. California sea lions are being accused of endangering salmon and trout stocks in coastal Washington, Oregon, and California as well as preying upon endangered fish species.
4. The State of Washington is currently permitted to kill sea lions to protect native steelhead trout at the Ballard Locks.
5. The federal National Marine Fisheries Service reports that sea lions pose a threat to public safety and property at locations such as docks and marinas, and destroy commercial fishermen's catch or gear.

Invasion Pathways

1. Overpopulation

Management Difficulty

1. Laws and predation upon California Sea Lion by commercial fishermen to control populations.

Sources

1. <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?speciesID=1091>
2. <http://www.pinnipeds.org/species/zalophus.htm>