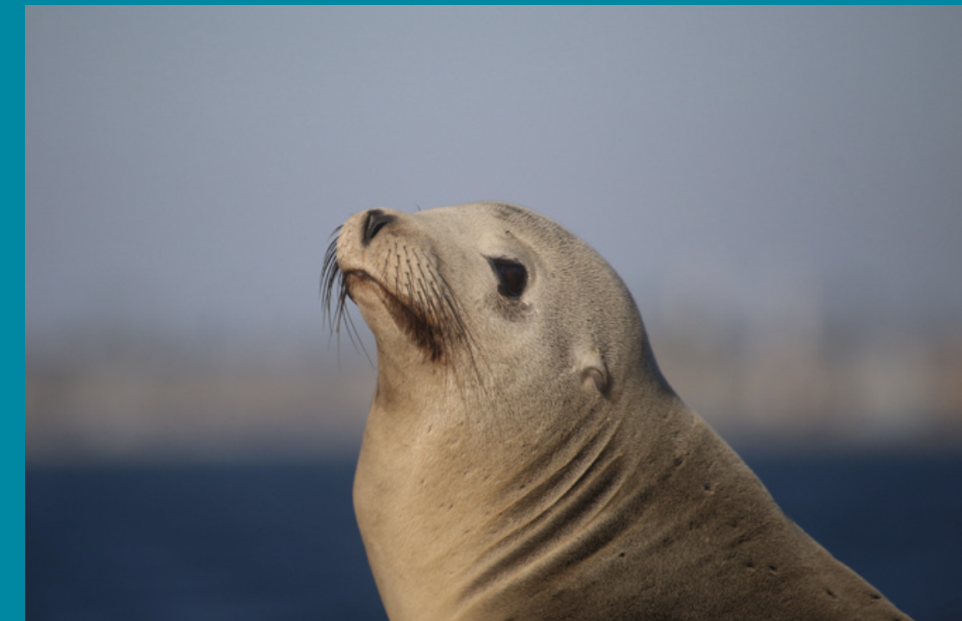


# California Sea Lion

## *Zalophus californianus*

By: Robert Foster



### Reproduction:

- Sea Lions breed on islands or remote beaches.
- Females go into estrus once a year
- Sea lions have a polygynist mating system.
- Male will claim breeding territories and fight off other males to increase their fecundity.
- Females typically have one pup, pups lactate from six to twelve months depending on food availability.
- Breeding season is June-August

### Diet:

- Anchovies, Sardines, Pacific Mackerel, Jack Mackerel, Hake, Steelhead, Rockfish, Salmon, and Squid.
- Sea Lions commonly forage at the edge of the continental shelf off the west coast of North America.

### Thermal and Water Balance:

- To avoid hitting their lower critical temperature Sea Lions have a thin layer of blubber
- They have increased heat production through skeletal muscle thermogenesis which avoids thermal energetic disadvantages at lower water temperatures
- Body water is conserved by periodic fasting
- Sea Lions don't consume seawater, they obtain water through pre-formed water in their diet

### Communication:

- Sea Lions show both visual forms of communication and acoustic forms of communication
- Communication between Sea Lions is much more frequent during breeding seasons.
- Male Sea Lion's vocalizations are referred to as a bark varying in loudness and temporal patterning.
- Territorial large male Sea Lions bark more often than smaller males.

### Distribution:

- Geographical range is from Alaska to Baja California
- Sea temperatures range from 5 degrees celsius to thirty degrees celsius due to their large range
- Five genetically distinct populations

