

Table 4.4. Summary of Life History and Management Information for Selected Marine Mammals off North/Central California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protection & Population Status in the Study Area		Occurrence & Breeding in Study Area			Primary Prey Types					
		Protection Status (FE, FT, SE, ST - see notes 2 & 3 below)	Population Trends of Species and/or Stocks (Increasing, Decreasing, Relatively Stable, Unknown) ⁵	Temporal Occurrence	Period of Primary Occurrence	Breeding Period	Benthic Invertebrates	Plankton	Euphausiids (krill)	Other Pelagic Inverts (e.g. squid, octopus)	Fishes	Other Vertebrates (e.g., mammals, birds)
Southern sea otter	<i>Enhydra lutris nereis</i>	FT subspecies	Increased 5% per year from 2001-2007	Year-round	All months	June/July-Oct/Nov	X			X		
California sea lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>		Increasing, except for declines during El Niño events	Year-round; seasonally abundant	Aug-Mar	Mar-June				X	X	
Steller sea lion	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	FT Distinct Population Segment	Overall, species is increasing, but decreases are occurring in CA.	Year-round	All months	mid-May to mid-July				X	X	
Northern fur seal	<i>Callorhinus ursinus</i>		Increased steadily except for declines in 1983 & 1998 ~ El Niño events	Year-round; seasonally abundant	Feb-May	mostly June-July				X	X	
Pacific harbor seal	<i>Phoca vitulina richardsi</i>		Stable	Year-round	All months	Mar-July				X	X	
Northern elephant seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>		Increasing in CA, stable or decreasing in Mexico	Year-round; seasonally abundant	At-sea - unknown at this time; at rookeries Nov-Mar	mid-Dec thru mid-Mar				X	X	
Dall's porpoise	<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>		Unknown	Year-round	No trend	Unknown				X	X	
Harbor porpoise (Northern CA, San Francisco/Russian River, Monterey stocks)	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>		San Francisco/Russian River & Monterey stocks are stable; Morro Bay stock is increasing.	Year-round	Unknown at this time	Unknown				X	X	
Pacific white-sided dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>		Unknown	Year-round	No trend	Unknown				X	X	
Risso's dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>		Unknown	Year-round	No trend	Unknown				X	X	
Bottlenose dolphin (California coastal & offshore stocks)	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>		CA coastal stock: Stable from 1987-1998; offshore stock - no trend	Year-round	No trend	Unknown?				X	X	
Short-beaked common dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>		Unknown	Not detected in CDAS data	No trend	Unknown				X	X	
Northern right whale dolphin	<i>Lissodelphis borealis</i>		Unknown	Year-round	No trend	Unknown				X	X	
Killer whale (Eastern N. Pacific Southern Resident)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	FE Distinct Population Segment	Unknown	Year-round	No trend	Unknown				X	X	X
Baird's beaked whale	<i>Berardius bairdii</i>		Unknown	Unknown	Insufficient data	Unknown				X	X	
Cuvier's beaked whale	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>		Unknown	Unknown	Insufficient data	Unknown				X	X	
Mesoplodont beaked whales	<i>Mesoplodond spp.</i>		Unknown	Unknown	Insufficient data	Unknown				X	X	
Sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	FE	Unknown	Seasonal	No trend	not in study area				X	x	
Gray whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	Delisted Federal 1994	Increasing ~ 1.9% from 1967/69-2001/02; but pop'n had a sharp drop from 29,758 in 97/98 to 18,178 in 01/02.	Year-round; seasonally abundant	Dec-Apr	Off Baja CA Mex. mostly Dec-Jan	X	X	X		x	
Blue whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	FE	Unknown	Mostly seasonal	Jun-Nov	not in study area			X			
Humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	FE	Increasing 6-7%/yr ^{1/9}	Year-round; seasonally abundant	Mostly Apr-Dec ^{1/11} ; year-round off Farallon Is.	not in study area			X	X	X	
Fin whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	FE	Unknown	Mostly seasonal	Aug-Nov	not in study area			X		X	
Minke whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>		Unknown	Year round	No trend	Unknown?			X		X	

Notes

- Superscripts indicate sources as follows: 1-USGS, 2002; 2-Carretta et al., 2001; 2a-Carretta et al. 2002; 3-P.Morris pers.comm., credited to B. Le Boeuf; 4-Hastings and Sydeman, 2001; and 5-USFWS, 2000. 6-Sydeman & Allen, 1999; 7-Gerrodette et al., 1985; 8-Calambokidis pers.comm.; 9-Forney et al., 2000; 10-Rugh et al., 2002, 11-Monterey Bay Whale Watch: <http://www.montereybaywhalewatch.com/marlife.htm>
- All marine mammal species have legal protection under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972; species identified as Federally Endangered (FE), Federally Threatened (FT) are identified. Although not listed above, sei and right whales are also identified as Federally endangered.
- None of the marine mammal species shown above are listed as state endangered (SE), state threatened (ST) or species of special concern (SSC) in California at this time. - 5/14/07
- This table was developed by Tracy Gill at NCCOS NOAA, with help from Carol Keiper, Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge.
- Information on trends came mostly from the Biennial Report to Congress on the Recovery Program for Threatened & Endangered Species: 2004-2006, by the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, NOAA.