



Fisheries  
& Habitat  
Conservation

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

# Conserving Marine Mammals

*The Marine Mammal Program provides benefits by:*

*Ensuring healthy populations and ecosystems;*

*Ensuring availability for Alaska Native subsistence;*

*Gathering and analyzing biological information;*

*Coordinating and sharing information; and*

*Developing partnerships and working with others.*

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), prohibits the taking of marine mammals and requires that marine mammals be maintained at, or returned to, their optimum sustainable population levels.

## WHAT DOES THIS PROGRAM DO?

- Conserves and manages sea and marine otters, polar bears, walrus, manatees, and dugongs.
- Coordinates and facilitates information and data exchange among interested parties including: Federal and State agencies, non-governmental organizations, commercial industries, Native Alaskans, and international governments.

## HOW DO WE DO IT?

- Create partnerships to monitor the status of marine mammals and provide information to the public on population trends.
- Facilitate international conservation.

## WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- Provided marine mammal stock assessment reports.
- Developed cooperative agreements with Alaska Natives.
- Promulgated regulations to minimize impacts on polar bears and Pacific walrus from oil and gas exploration, development, and production.
- Partnered with Russia to develop an International Polar Bear Treaty.

## HOW DOES THE PUBLIC BENEFIT?

- Healthier ecosystems.
- Healthier marine mammal populations.

## WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?

- Improve our capacity to assist our partners with stranding and rescue response operations.
- Increase our ability to monitor marine mammal status and health.
- Work closer with our partners to recover threatened and endangered stocks of marine mammals.



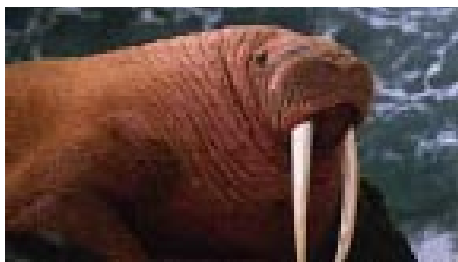
*Above: Sea otters play an important role in the California coastal ecosystem.*



*Above: Manatees are a favorite attraction for visitors to the Florida coast and intracoastal waterways.*



*Above: Cooperative relationships with industry minimize impacts of energy development activities on polar bears.*



*Above: Marine mammals in Alaska, such as the walrus, play an important traditional role in the culture and livelihood of Native Alaskans.*

For more information about Conserving Marine Mammals, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at 202/208-6394 or visit us on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries>.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
800/344-WILD

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