



The historical distribution of Caribbean monk seals from historical sightings (●), archeological records (○), and geographical features bearing names suggestive of their presence (▲). There is evidence that Caribbean monk seals used mainland beaches of North and Central America as haul-out sites in great numbers prior to intense hunting for their blubber. Most sighting records were from isolated islands, cays, and reefs in the eastern Gulf of Mexico (Ray 1961) and western Caribbean Sea.