

Draft 2007 Alaska Region Marine Mammal Stranding Summary

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Contents

Summary and Acknowledgements

Table 1. Events and Animals Reported by Month

Table 2. Animals by Species and Initial Condition

Table 3. Live Animals to the Alaska Sea Life Center for Rehabilitation by Outcome

Table 4. Human Interaction: preliminary

Table 5. Animals by Area, Species, and Initial Condition

Summary

Strandings of cetaceans and pinnipeds that occurred in Alaska waters and were reported to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region (NMFS) are summarized here. Currently a total of 114 events are recorded, involving 117 individual animals. This data is subject to change as more information becomes available and with further review of the records; at this time level A reports are not yet available for at least 5 events (including one Minke whale).

Stranding events include animals found dead (floating and beach-cast) and reports of live stranded, mass stranded, abandoned, sick or injured animals. Human interactions like collisions, fishery interactions and entanglements are included. Known subsistence takes are not included, but suspected subsistence animals are in some cases included here (e.g., animals reported shot). Fishery observer reports are not included unless the animal was observed outside of statistical reporting protocols (and thus would not be included by the observer program as part of their watch data set).

Stranding events where the animal(s) could not be examined are included in the numbers below as long as the animal was at least identified as either cetacean or pinniped. Both unconfirmed and confirmed reports are compiled here.

Events involving two or more species are rare in the Alaska stranding data: two harbor porpoises were caught in a subsistence net this winter, and three Steller sea lions were found beach-cast. There were three unusual species strandings this year: an out of range Guadalupe fur seal and striped dolphin as well as a ribbon seal that was transported and released.

Further stranding information and references are available at the NMFS Alaska Region webpage:
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/strandings.htm>

Acknowledgements

This summary is made possible by the people who report stranding events and the efforts of the Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

Tables

Table 1. Draft 2007 Alaska Region Stranding Reports by Initial Sighting Month, Number of Events, and Number of Animals.

Month	Events	Actual
Jan	3	3
Feb	1	1
March	2	2
Apr	6	6
May	22	22
June	27	27
July	20	20
Aug	16	18
Sept	7	7
Oct	8	8
Nov	1	2
Dec	1	1
Total	114	117

Table 2. Draft 2007 Alaska Region Marine Mammal Strandings by Initial Condition, Species, and Number of Animals.

	Initial Condition		
	Alive	Dead	Total
Beluga	1	19	20
Grey		2	2
Large cetacean		5	5
Humpback	15	4	19
Orca		1	1
Dall's porpoise		1	1
Sperm		1	1
Harbor porpoise		3	3
Striped dolphin		1	1
Unknown cetacean	1	9	9
<i>Cetacean Total</i>	17	46	63
Guadalupe fur seal	1		1
Steller sea lion	10	18	28
Ribbon seal	1		1
Elephant seal	2		2
Ringed seal	1	1	2
Spotted seal	3		3
Harbor seal	8	8	16
Unknown pinniped		1	1
<i>Pinniped Total</i>	26	28	54
Total	44	74	117

Table 3. Draft 2007 Alaska Region Live Strandings Handled by the Alaska Sea Life Center for Rehabilitation by Species, Outcome, and Number of Animals.

Species	Outcome	Animals
Guadalupe fur seal	released	1
	<i>Guadalupe fur seal Total</i>	1
Steller sea lion	died	1
	<i>Steller sea lion Total</i>	1
Ribbon seal	released	1
	<i>Ribbon seal Total</i>	1
Elephant seal	died	1
	released	1
	<i>Elephant seal Total</i>	2
Ringed seal	released	1
	<i>Ringed seal Total</i>	1
Spotted seal	released	3
	<i>Spotted seal Total</i>	3
Harbor seal	died	1
	pending	1
	released	6
	<i>Harbor seal Total</i>	8
Total		17

Table 4. Draft 2007 Alaska Region Stranding Events involving Human Interaction. These numbers should be treated as preliminary. They include both confirmed and unconfirmed reports; not all human interaction reports recorded evidence. There may be duplicate reports from the same event included in these numbers.

Human Interaction?	Details	Species	Animals	
Could not be determined	pos. shot	Steller sea lion	1	
		Harbor seal	2	
	pos. entanglement	Beluga	1	
		Harbor seal	1	
		Steller sea lion	1	
	pos. collision	Steller sea lion	4	
		<i>Could not be determined Total</i>	10	
	Yes	beach-cast	Steller sea lion	3
			Unknown cetacean	1
			Harbor seal	1
collision		Humpback	5	
		Steller sea lion	3	
entanglement		Unknown cetacean	1	
		Beluga	1	
		Humpback	9	
		Harbor porpoise	1	
		Steller sea lion	4	
fishery interaction		Harbor seal	1	
		Steller sea lion	2	
shot		Steller sea lion	1	
		Harbor seal	2	
subsistence		Beluga	1	
		<i>Yes Total</i>	36	
Total			46	

Table 5. Draft 2007 Alaska Region Marine Mammal Strandings by Area, Species, Initial Condition, and Number of Animals.

Area	Species	Initial Condition		Total
		Alive	Dead	
Arctic	Ringed seal	1	1	2
	Harbor seal		1	1
	<i>Arctic Total</i>	1	2	3
Southcentral Alaska	Beluga		15	15
	Large cetacean		1	1
	Humpback	5	1	6
	Orca		1	1
	Unknown cetacean		7	7
	Guadalupe fur seal	1		1
	Steller sea lion	2	5	7
	Ribbon seal	1		1
	Elephant seal	2		2
	Harbor seal	6	3	9
		<i>Southcentral Total</i>	17	33
Southeast Alaska	Large cetacean		2	2
	Humpback	10	2	12
	Dall's porpoise		1	1
	Harbor porpoise		1	1
	Striped dolphin		1	1
	Unknown cetacean	1	2	2
	Elephant seal	8	11	19
	Harbor seal	1	3	4
	Unknown pinniped		1	1
	<i>Southeast Total</i>	21	24	44
Western Alaska	Beluga	1	4	5
	Grey		2	2
	Large cetacean		2	2
	Humpback		1	1
	Sperm		1	1
	Harbor porpoise		2	2
	Steller sea lion		2	2
	Spotted seal	3		3
	Harbor seal	1	1	2
	<i>Western Total</i>	5	15	20
Total		44	74	117