

Draft

1998-2002 Alaska Region Marine Mammal Stranding Summary

This information was compiled 7/12/2003. Stranding information is subject to change as more information on events becomes available. For the most current information, please contact the National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, Protected Resources at 907-586-7235.

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Summary

Stranding reports on cetacean and pinniped events occurring in Alaska waters in the years 1998 through 2002 are summarized below. As of 7/12/2003, a total of 543 stranding events have been reported to the Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network Coordinator, for a total of approximately 798 animals. The grey whale unusual mortality event (1999-2000) accounts for 135 of these animals as reported over 78 events. Twelve other mass stranding events contribute {140, 196, 283} animals. This range is based on the available {low, best, high} estimates for the number of animals involved.

Included are reports of stranding events where animal could not be examined, as long as the animal was at least identified as either cetacean or pinniped.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the people who report events and also to Stranding Network members who respond to Alaska marine mammal stranding events. Without your assistance this summary would not be possible.

Tables

Table 1. Draft 1998-2002 Alaska Region Stranding Events Reported By Year.

Year	Events
1998	85
1999	103
2000	171
2001	83
2002	101
Total	543

Table 2. Draft 1998-2002 Alaska Region Marine Mammal Strandings by Initial Condition, Family, Number of Animals

	Alive	Dead	Unknown	Total Animals
Pinnipedia	78	165	5	248
Cetacea	126	349	75	550
Total	204	514	80	*798

* This is an approximate number. The number considers the best available estimate for mass strandings.

Table 3. Draft 1998-2002 Alaska Region Marine Mammal Strandings by Species, Initial Condition, and Number of Animals.

Species	Initial Condition			Total
	Alive	Dead	Unknown	
Baird's beaked whale		3		3
Beaked whale, unknown		4		4
Beluga whale	73	87	60	220
Bowhead whale		1		1
Cetacean, unknown	2	41	5	48
Cuvier's beaked whale		4		4
Dall's porpoise	1	5		6
Fin whale	1	1	1	3
Grey whale	4	139	2	145
Harbor porpoise	6	11		17
Humpback whale	31	22	6	59
Minke whale	2	4		6
Orca	3	12		15
Pacific white sided dolphin	2			2
Rorqual whale, unknown	1	8		9
Sperm whale		3	1	4
Stejneger's beaked whale		3		3
Toothed whale, unknown		1		1
<i>Total Cetacea</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>349</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>550</i>
Bearded seal	1	26		27
California sea lion		1		1
Eared seal, unknown		5		5
Elephant seal	2	2		4
Harbor seal	30	27	3	60
Northern fur seal	5	2		7
Pinniped, unknown	1	2		3
Ringed seal	5	11		16
Seal, unknown	4	32		36
Spotted seal		4		4
Steller sea lion	30	53	2	85
<i>Total Pinnipedia</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>248</i>
Total	204	514	80	*798

* This is an approximate number. This number uses the best available estimate for mass strandings.

Table 4. Draft 1998-2002 Alaska Region Marine Mammal Strandings by Area, Species, Number of Animals.

Species	Area		Total
	Northern Alaska Peninsula and coastline north including Aleutians	Southern Alaska Peninsula and remainder of State	
Baird's beaked whale	2	1	3
Beaked whale, unknown	3	1	4
Beluga whale	46	174	220
Bowhead whale	1		1
Cetacean, unknown	10	38	48
Cuvier's beaked whale	2	2	4
Dall's porpoise		6	6
Fin whale	1	2	3
Grey whale	78	67	145
Harbor porpoise	7	10	17
Humpback whale	13	46	59
Minke whale	1	5	6
Orca	8	7	15
Pacific white sided dolphin		2	2
Rorqual whale, unknown	4	5	9
Sperm whale	1	3	4
Stejneger's beaked whale	2	1	3
Toothed whale, unknown	1		1
<i>Total Cetacea</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>370</i>	<i>550</i>
Bearded seal	27		27
California sea lion		1	1
Eared seal, unknown		5	5
Elephant seal	1	3	4
Harbor seal	21	39	60
Northern fur seal	2	5	7
Pinniped, unknown	1	2	3
Ringed seal	16		16
Seal, unknown	34	2	36
Spotted seal	4		4
Steller sea lion	18	67	85
<i>Total Pinnipedia</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>248</i>
Total	300	489	*789

* This is an approximate number. This number uses the best available estimate for mass strandings.

Table 5. Draft 1998-2002 Alaska Region Live Strandings With Rehabilitation Attempted by Known Outcome, Numbers of Animals.

Outcome	Animals
Died At Rehab	9
Released From Rehab	23
Total	32

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