

The Marine Mammal Center

Marine Mammal Stranding 2019





Why am I here today?



The Marine
Mammal Center.

What do we want to accomplish today?

We want to assure compassionate treatment for marine mammals

We want equip you to deal with marine mammal strandings

ASK QUESTIONS

How do we measure success today?

When you leave here today, you should.....

Feel comfortable that you know how to respond to a stranded marine mammal in your area

Know where to get further information and answers

Give us feedback on whether this class met your expectations



We'll answer these questions.....

Who is The Marine Mammal Center?

Why do marine mammals strand?

What information do we need from the reporting persons?

Who responds?

What do we do when we respond?

What happens if we rescue?



[You may be first to hear about a stranded marine mammal](#)



The Marine Mammal Center

Our Mission: The Marine Mammal Center advances global ocean conservation through marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation, scientific research, and education.

Our Work: We rescue and rehabilitate sick and injured marine mammals at our state-of-the-art veterinary facilities by engaging a dedicated workforce and a supportive community.

We learn from the patients in our care and contribute to scientific understanding of the changing health of our ocean, taking action to address ocean threats and save endangered species.

We lead as a teaching hospital by training veterinary professionals locally and internationally, and inspiring future ocean stewards through innovative school and public education programs.



The Marine Mammal Center



Covers 600 miles of California coastline

Over 1300 volunteers and 75 full time staff

The Marine Mammal Center



Engaged more than 120,000 people as visitors and through outreach programs and community events (including Hawaii)

The Marine Mammal Center



Co-authored / Published 25 research papers in peer-reviewed journals in 2017

Hosted 40 visiting students and researchers from all over the world

The Marine Mammal Center



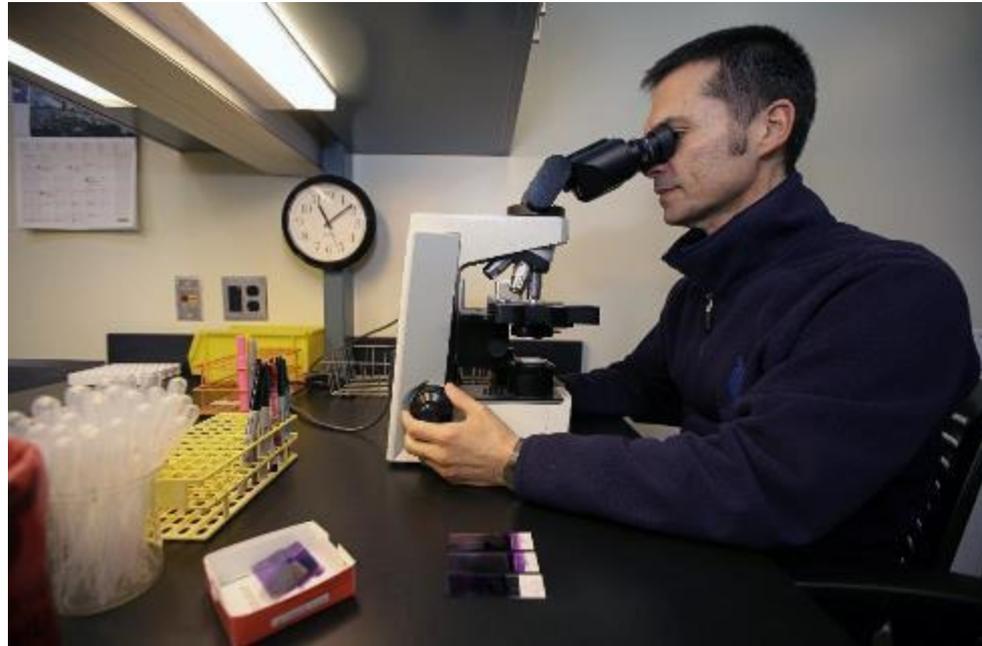
In addition to our work in evaluation and rescue of marine mammals, in 2017 we released 353 marine mammals back into their ocean home.

Total responses = 732

Live animal admits = 637

Survival = 55%

The Marine Mammal Center



The Marine Mammal Center has an analytical laboratory on-site so that we can get immediate biological test results.

The Marine Mammal Center



A fully equipped surgery suite allows us to cope with traumatic injuries as well as more routine operations.



The Marine Mammal Center

Authorized by NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service under a Stranding Agreement to: “respond to live and dead pinnipeds and cetaceans from the Humboldt/Mendocino County line south to the San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara County line (including inland counties and waterways), and the Big Island of Hawaii, and to rehabilitate live pinnipeds and cetaceans at TMMC’s facilities in Sausalito (long term rehabilitation), Moss Landing and Morro Bay (triage, stabilization and short term holding), and Kona”

We have the authority to interact with, rescue (if necessary) and transport marine mammals.

We do not have any law enforcement authority

We respect private and public property



Why do marine mammals strand?

Gathering in rookeries is not considered stranding

They could be sick...

- Leptospirosis
- Domoic acid
- Parasites
- Cancer
- Malnourishment

They could be injured...

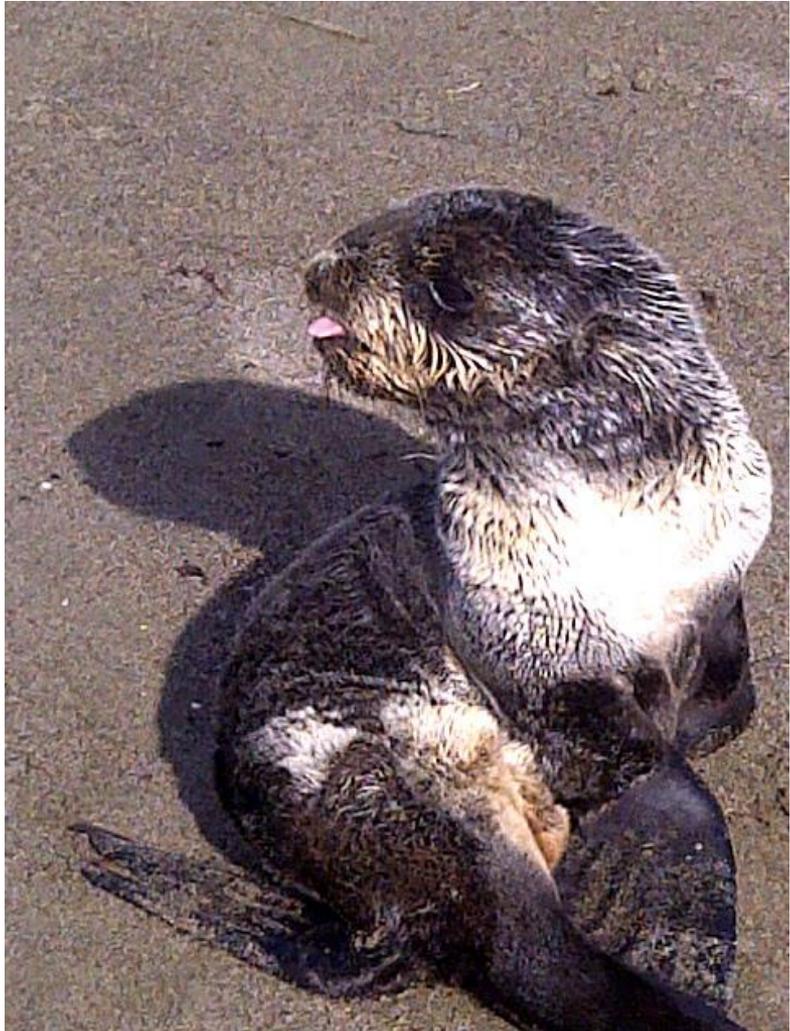
- Trauma
- Fish hook
- Gun shot
- Ship strike

They can be entangled in garbage or fishing gear

Pups can be abandoned by mom

Elephant seals can be molting

They could be just resting



Notification about a stranded marine mammal.....Initial evaluation

Description..... (describe, don't diagnose)

Length, color, weight

Injuries

Other animals close by

Entanglements

Marks, tags, tattoos

Anything else unusual





Notification about a stranded marine mammal.....

Who do you notify?

Rescue & Response Dept.

The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC)

Sausalito, CA.

1-415-289-7325 (SEAL)

Pictures to: rescue@tmmc.org

When can you notify TMMC?

Rescue & Response department receives all calls during daylight hours

Answering service will answer at other hours or if all lines are busy



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Protect the stranded animal from

People

Dogs

Other hazards (birds, ocean debris, etc.)

Tools:

Signs

“caution tape”

visitors on-site & willing to monitor the animal

Special circumstances:

Harbor seal moms may leave young pups on the beach.

Mom will not return for the baby if people are nearby.

Try to keep people several hundred feet from a pup.

The Marine Mammal Center will respond with trained volunteers and equipment



The Rescue

The TMMC team leader will meet with the team prior to initiating a rescue to discuss strategy and assignments. **Safety is top priority**

Because of the risk of injury, we do not allow the general public to assist with the rescue until the animal is safely secured in a carrier.

Once the animal is safely secured, we welcome the public's help in moving the animal and the equipment to the transport vehicle

We try to make sure that we interact with the public to answer questions about marine mammals and about The Marine Mammal Center



What do you say to people on the beach?

It is a violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to harass, touch, feed, move or otherwise disturb any marine mammal

It is not unusual for healthy marine mammals to haul out on beaches

Do not attempt to push or herd the animal back into the water

Seals and sea lions do not need to be kept wet or fed
(dolphins and porpoises are an exception)

Marine mammals can carry diseases that are contagious to humans and animals

Marine mammals can bite or otherwise injure humans and other animals.





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So....what happens to the animal once its in the carrier.

If its just a “relocation”, we’ll take it to an isolated area and release it. We’ll mark it so that we can recognize it if it returns

If we do need to “rescue”, then it will be transported to The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito. Depending on its on-site evaluation, it will be examined by veterinarian or vet tech and admitted to the hospital.

If rehabilitation is successful, it will be released back into the ocean usually in several weeks to several months

If we are unable to save the animal, it will receive a full necropsy and may contribute tissue and organ samples to many researchers throughout the world

If our veterinarians determine that it is healthy but cannot survive in the wild, we will place it on an adoption list.



What about other marine mammals?

Whales.....

It is rare to find a live beached whale. A live whale, close to shore, should be observed to see if there is evidence of entanglement

An entangled whale in distress should be reported to 877-SOS-WHAlE (767-9425)
A stranded live whale in distress should be reported to The Marine Mammal Center
415-289-7350

A whale carcass should be reported to 415-379-5381
(California Academy of Sciences)

Dolphins, porpoises.....

Stranded dolphins and porpoises should be reported to
The Marine Mammal Center 415-289-7350

A dolphin or porpoise carcass should be reported to 415-379-5381
(California Academy of Sciences)



When in doubt.....call The Marine Mammal Center 415-289-7350

What about other marine mammals? continued

We will assist other organizations in the evaluation and rescue of sea turtles and sea otters

Sea Turtles, Please call The Marine Mammal Center 415-289-7350

Rescued Turtles are transferred to other organizations specializing in Sea Turtle rehab.

Sea Otters, Please call The Marine Mammal Center 415-289-7350

Rescued Sea Otters are transferred to Monterey Bay Aquarium or rehabilitated at The Marine Mammal Center.

When in doubt.....call The Marine Mammal Center 415-289-7350



The Marine
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Questions?

Comments?

