



Elephant Seal Basics



Overview

- **Marine Mammals**
- **Natural History**
- **Elephant Seals At Point Reyes**





Marine Mammals – Overview

Carnivora (34 spp.)

- polar bears, otters, seals, sea lions...
- derived from bear, weasel and mink

Cetacea (78 spp.)

- whales, dolphins, porpoises
- evolved from an artiodactyls (even-toed ungulates like cows and pigs)

Sirenia (4 spp)

- manatees and dugongs
- related to elephants

130 marine mammals world wide

45 marine mammals in eastern Pacific



Of all Mammals:

Deepest divers

Sperm whale (6,900 ft), beaked whales, e seals

Thickest blubber

Large whales 20 in

Largest brain

Sperm whale 27 lbs but by body weight is dolphin

Longest lived mammal

Bowhead whale 177-245 years



Pinnipeds

Why do they have to use land?

- Adaptations
 - Morphological (built for land and sea)
 - Physiological (diving, temperature, water balance)
- Limitations
 - Migration, foraging opportunity



Point Reyes National Seashore Elephant Seal Docent Program



Multiple pinniped species occur at limited terrestrial sites



Marine Mammals - Pinnipeds

- Species at Point Reyes NS
- Differences between species
- General Behavior
- When and where found



Richard Allen



Sue Van Der Wal



Phocidae



e) Chuck Davis/Tidal Flats, Ltd.



Otariidae



(C) Randy Monroe



Pinnipeds



California sea lion
Marc Webber



Elephant seal
Richard Allen



Steller sea lion
Pat Morris



Harbor seal
NOAA