

2015 Stranding Summary: Alaska Region Steller Sea Lion and Harbor Seal Stranding Reports, January 1 - November 1, 2015

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The tables below represents summaries of all confirmed reports involving Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) and harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) received by the Alaska Regional Stranding Network in 2015. Please be aware of the uncertainty associated with these reports. Marine mammal stranding reports are made by expert members of the marine mammal community as well as members of the general public with varying degrees of knowledge regarding marine mammal biology and ecology. All of the summarized reports have been confirmed, which means they are accompanied by some level of verification. However, the degree of confirmation, and associated uncertainty, ranges from low to high. Low confirmation describes reports that are dependable, firsthand accounts lacking evidence or notes. High confirmation includes concrete evidence or an event witnessed, with no element of doubt. It is also important to recognize that the reports represent effort that has varied substantially over time and location, particularly during earlier reporting periods and in areas with low population density.

Table 1. Steller Sea Lion Stranding Reports in the Alaska Region, January 1 – November 2, 2015.

Table 2. Harbor Seal Stranding Reports in the Alaska Region, January 1 – November 2, 2015.

Regional	Month	Day	Region*	Area	Condition Code	Details	Age	Summary	NOTES
2015006	Feb	28	SEAK	Juneau (west side of boyscout camp beach)	advanced decomposition	beached	pup/calf	beached and scavenged SSL pup	8 - 9 month old Stellers pup found below tideline. Most of carcass picked clean, but still looks thin.
2015011	Apr	14	SEAK	Tenakee Inlet, Cannery Point	alive	entangled	adult	entangled SSL	Maybe white packing band
2015016	Apr	28	WAK	Umnak	moderate decomposition	beached	adult	decomposing SSL	Reporting party observed a flipper tag on the animal as #7899, an unclaimed number by ADF&G and Russian biologists. He reported the animal as an adult male, bloated, belly up. He saw no evidence of wounds and no scavenging.
2015019	May	3	SEAK	Ocean Cape	advanced decomposition	beached	unknown	decomposing SSL	Advanced decomposition and animal scavenging

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2015021	May	5	SEAK	on Tenakee beach	fresh dead	beached	unknown	emaciated SSL	Emaciated and lethargic Steller sea lion on Tenakee beaches, eventually died and shipped to JNU. Unusual bony growths on skull with lung and lymph node involvement.
2015023	Apr	29	WAK	Adak, Sweeper Cove	moderate decomposition	floating	adult	floating SSL	Found floating, pulled to shore, small bullet found in soft tissue at base of neck, although skull appeared intact.
2015024	May	17	SEAK	Sea Lion Rock, Grindall island	alive	entangled	unknown	entangled SSL	Fishing line or some sort of thin plastic
2015028	May	19	SEAK	Juneau, Favorite Channel	moderate decomposition	floating	adult	Decomposing SSL	SSL floater called in by whale watch company
2015029	May	11	WAK	Akutan Harbor	moderate decomposition	beached	adult	Decomposing SSL	Located between the old whaling station and the crab pot storage (used by Trident Seafoods). It is a small area and it was on the beach. Its head was detached from its body-eagles were feeding on the carcass -hermit crabs feeding also-looked like it had been decomposing for a while but body was still intact.
2015035	May	24	SEAK	Channel Marker, NE side Of Admiralty	alive	entangled	adult	entangled SSL	Neck entanglement but no further information available.
2015039	May	28	SCAK	Softuk Beach	moderate decomposition	beached	juvenile/subadult	beached SSL	One of 12 dead animals examined along Copper River Delta. See report.
2015040	May	28	SCAK	Softuk Beach	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached branded SSL	One of 12 dead animals examined along Copper River Delta. See report.

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2015041	May	28	SCAK	Softuk Beach	moderate decomposition	beached	adult	beached SSL	One of 12 dead animals examined along Copper River Delta. See report.
2015042	May	28	SCAK	Softuk Beach	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached SSL	One of 12 dead animals examined along Copper River Delta. See report.
2015043	May	28	SCAK	Softuk Beach	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached SSL	One of 12 dead animals examined along Copper River Delta. See report.
2015044	June	2	SCAK	Softuk Beach	fresh dead	beached	juvenile/subadult	beached SSL	One of 12 dead animals examined along Copper River Delta. See report.
2015045	June	2	SCAK	Grass Island	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached SSL	One of 12 dead animals examined along Copper River Delta. See report.
2015046	June	2	SCAK	Grass Island	moderate decomposition	beached	juvenile/subadult	beached SSL	One of 12 dead animals examined along Copper River Delta. See report.
2015047	June	2	SCAK	Grass Island	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached SSL	One of 12 dead animals examined along Copper River Delta. See report.
2015048	June	5	SCAK	Kokenhenik Bar	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached SSL	One of 12 dead animals examined along Copper River Delta. See report.
2015049	June	2	SCAK	Kokenhenik Bar	moderate decomposition	beached	adult	beached SSL	One of 12 dead animals examined along Copper River Delta. See report.
2015050	June	2	SCAK	Kokenhenik Bar	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached SSL	One of 12 dead animals examined along Copper River Delta. See report.
2015075	June	12	SEAK	Next to Sitka airport runway	moderate decomposition	floating	unknown	floating SSL	Reported by kayaker.

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2015076	June	12	SEAK	near Rockwell Lighthouse, Sitka	alive	injured/sick	unknown	injured/ill SSL	An injured hauled out SSL reported as lethargic and skinny, with a wound on its jaw. PRD requested further monitoring of animal's condition with expectation to necropsy if SSL is re-sighted in future as deceased. Later photos revealed several strands of line coming from mouth.
2015080	June	16	SCAK	Hinchinbrook Island	mummified/skeletal	beached	unknown	heavily predated SSL	Bears and eagles had consumed most of the flesh, but the full skeleton, patches of skin, and some organs remain. Observer was fairly certain it was a SSL.
2015082	June	17	SEAK	Sitka, in front of town	alive	injured/sick	unknown	injured SSL	
2015084	Feb	27	SCAK	Natoa Island	moderate decomposition	beached	pup/calf	dead SSL pup	
2015085	May	16	SEAK	west of Cannon Beach	mummified/skeletal	beached	unknown	skeletal beached SSL	Appeared to be a smaller animal, roughly estimated at about 9 feet in length. The remaining skeleton was collected during a public beach clean-up event on June 13, and is currently being housed at the Yakutat City and Borough pending submission of an educational permit.
2015103	July	2	WAK	west Nagai Strait	alive	entangled	unknown	neck entanglement SSL	
2015109	~July	1	WAK	Chirikof Island	dead, condition unknown	beached	unknown	beached SSL	1 of 3 stranded SSLs noted by field crew on Chirikof, requested more information

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2015110	~July	1	WAK	Chirikof Island	dead, condition unknown	beached	unknown	beached SSL	1 of 3 stranded SSLs noted by field crew on Chirikof, requested more information
2015111	~July	1	WAK	Chirikof Island	dead, condition unknown	beached	unknown	beached SSL	1 of 3 stranded SSLs noted by field crew on Chirikof, requested more information
2015113	July	7	Kodiak	Buskin Beach	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached SSL	
2015114	June	30	Kodiak	Shumagin Islands	alive	entangled	adult	ringneck SSL	This entangled Steller sea lion was reported to the assistant salmon management biologist in Sand Point, by two tourists sailing through the Shumagin Islands. He received the attached photograph from the sailors on July 7, 2015 and forwarded them on.
2015115	July	7	SEAK	Cannery Point	fresh dead	beached	juvenile/subadult	emaciated young SSL	Small SSL, first seen weak and emaciated then found dead in same location.
2015122	July	10	SEAK	Juneau	alive	entangled	adult	SSL with flasher	Multiple calls of animal on Faust Rock buoy.
2015134	July	13	SCAK	Jakalof Bay	moderate decomposition	floating	unknown	decapitated, floating SSL	Unable to tell if human interaction
2015141	July	3	SCAK	Green Island Bar, Copper River Delta	advanced decomposition	beached	juvenile/subadult	beached SSL, possibly shot	Small SSL, heavily scavenged and advanced decomposition. Photos show a hole in the back of the skull and broken bone around the top of the left eye socket. Possible bullet entry/exit. The organs were gone and ribs exposed.

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2015142	July	3	SCAK	Kokenhenik Bar, Copper River delta	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached SSL	Medium male adult SSL location via USCG Jayhawk on July 3. Advanced decomposition but organs still present and distinguishable. Took a whisker and skin sample (DMSO). Took length and blubber depth measurements. Have a number of associated photos. No evidence of cause of death.
2015151	July	22	SEAK	NW side of western Brothers, NE Frederick Sound	alive	entangled	adult	SSL entangled w/flasher	Reported by naturalist on small tour boat. Situated away from the group, appeared robust.
2015155	July	22	SEAK	SE of western Brothers, NE Frederick Sound	alive	entangled	juvenile/subadult	SSL entangled w/flasher	Reported by naturalist on small tour boat. Situated away from the group, appeared "sickly"
2015156	July	17	WAK	Mink Island, Katmai NP	fresh dead	beached	adult	beached branded SSL	The carcass looked fairly fresh and did not have much of a smell. The eyes were missing.
2015157	July	23	WAK	Summers Bay, Unalaska	advanced decomposition	beached	unknown	beached SSL	Called in to ASLC
2015160	July	24	Kodiak	Kodiak Island	alive	injured/sick	adult	SSL entangled w/twine around neck	ASLC received report regarding a sea lion (thought to be an adult female) on a haul out near the main harbor in Kodiak(across from float M) with some type of twine wrapped around its neck. The line is starting to cut into the flesh some but the animal is still very alert and vocal to the many other sea lions in the direct vicinity.

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2015164	July	27	SEAK	Cannery Point, Tenakee	alive	entangled	adult	SSL entangled w/flasher	On July 28 reported floating/barely swimming very slowly at the surface in nearby cove. It did not dive or submerge in about 30 minutes that we watched, at times seemed to be deliberately approaching boat on the surface. They did not want to get too close, but could see a silver flasher tight to mouth. Position in the water very odd. Did not appear to be a very large animal - possibly similar to the 230# individual this spring. Animal was not resighted.
2015172	July	29	Kodiak	Izhut Bay, Kodiak Island	moderate decomposition	floating	juvenile/subadult	floating subadult SSL	7/29/15: received call from Fairbanks at Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Assoc that the Kitoi hatchery crew reported a decomposing Steller sea lion floated over their barrier net and was headed for shore near hatchery. It was a subadult (~65"TL) male that still had fur but eyes and gums were detaching and penile opening was eroding. Observer looked for -but did not see- obvious external injuries.

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2015177	June	26	SCAK	Resurrection Bay, Kenai Peninsula	alive	beached	adult	SSL with injury	Steller Sea Lion seen on a rock by Pony Cove. Reported estimated the sea lion to be a male ~1000lbs. ~10x10inch gash right shoulder, which appears to possibly be from propeller strike. Two females tried to get on rock he didn't budge turned head slightly and vocalized, otherwise no response to other disturbances. Seen from 10am to 4pm that day in the same spot.
2015178	July	24	Kodiak	Kodiak Large Boat Harbor	alive	entangled	adult	SSL entangled w/flasher	A sea lion(thought to be an adult female) observed on a haul out near the main harbor in Kodiak(across from float M) with some type of twine wrapped around its neck. The line is starting to cut into the flesh some but the animal is still very alert and vocal to the many other sea lions in the direct vicinity.
2015193	July	6	SEAK	Little Island, Juneau	alive	entangled	adult	SSL entangled w/flasher	Reported by Weather Permitting, robust but isolated, flasher tight to mouth
2015207	Aug	18	WAK	Norris Cove, Unalaska	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached SSL	
2015220	July	27	SEAK	Cannery Point, Tenakee	alive	entangled	unknown	SSL entangled w/flasher	Animal described as emaciated and weak, eventually disappeared, presumed died.
2015236	July	26	SEAK	Little Island, Juneau	alive	entangled	unknown	SSL w/neck entanglement	Reported and photographed by tour naturalist, who thought the line may have been filament.
2015237	Sept	3	SEAK	Faust Rock, Stephens Passage	alive	entangled	unknown	SSL entangled w/flasher	Animal with pink flasher, appeared lethargic and thin.
2015246	Sept	8	SEAK	Bucharelli Bay, Craig	dead, condition unknown	shot	unknown	floating SSL	Possible bullet hole in head

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2015249	Sept	8	WAK	St. George	alive	entangled	juvenile/subadult	neck entangled SSL	Entanglement appears to be a blue loop packing band. Animal appears robust with normal behavior.
2015252	Aug	19	SCAK	Kachemak Bay	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached SSL	This Steller sea lion carcass was in an advanced state of decomposition with most of the fur, hind flippers, all of the tail and part of the skull missing or broken. The body was very bloated black and splitting open in a number of places. Sex could not be determined by external exam, nor could any injury of external problem be determined due to the level of decomposition.
2015258	Sept	20	SEAK	Dyea, Skagway	fresh dead	beached	unknown	beached SSL	Probable bullet hole in neck.
2015286	Oct	3	SEAK	Katlian Bay	moderate decomposition	floating	adult	floating SSL	No wounds or signs of entangling gear
2015304	Oct	21	SEAK	Petersburg	dead, condition unknown	floating	unknown	floating SSL	OLE Petersburg observed from a distance. No further information.
2015330	Oct	23	SEAK	Kodiak Harbor	alive	entangled	juvenile/subadult	entangled SSL	Line and hook look like halibut gangion.

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2015031	May	17	SEAK	Wilson Creek campground, Petersburg	moderate decomposition	shot	adult	beached harbor seal	Possibly shot through head, injured skull near body.
2015032	May	17	SCAK	Floating off of Caines Head	fresh dead	floating	adult	Floating pregnant harbor seal	fresh harbor seal carcass floating in Resurrection Bay earlier this week. It was an adult female, and after doing x-rays and necropsy discovered she had a nearly full term fetus.
2015037	May	28	SCAK	Cordova	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	abandoned harbor seal pup	
2015052	June	5	SEAK	east of Gustavus Dock	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	solitary harbor seal pup	1 June 2015 5:30 PM GBNP personnel went to the site and observed the seal. It was still alive but barely conscious with labored breaths. Its eyes were closed, and there was blood around them -- perhaps they had been pecked out by the eagles that were nearby when we arrived. It was emaciated and very small - a pup of the year. Other than the eye area, there was no sign of injury. It seemed near death. They went back on the morning of June 2, but it was gone.
2015053	June	5	SEAK	Dry Bay	fresh dead	beached	adult	beached harbor seal	Observer called NMFS stranding hotline to report a harbor seal carcass on the beach in Dry Bay. It was ~100yds from the surf and appeared fresh. Two (rather large) neck holes were observed, but difficult to tell if bullet wounds or a result of scavenging.

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2015060	June	8	WAK	Coffee Point near Egegik	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	abandoned harbor seal pup	
2015070	June	2	SCAK	Copper River Delta	dead, condition unknown	beached	unknown	beached harbor seal	One of 3 dead harbor seals observed during aerial along Copper River Delta. See reports 2015039 - 50.
2015071	June	2	SCAK	Copper River Delta	dead, condition unknown	beached	unknown	beached harbor seal	One of 3 dead harbor seals observed during aerial along Copper River Delta. See reports 2015039 - 50.
2015072	June	2	SCAK	Copper River Delta	dead, condition unknown	beached	unknown	beached harbor seal	One of 3 dead harbor seals observed during aerial along Copper River Delta. See reports 2015039 - 50.
2015083	June	16	WAK	Aleutians	fresh dead	beached	unknown	beached harbor seal	Survey crew found harbor seal washed up on shore, no apparent trauma and seemed fresh but flies were on it.
2015098	July	12	SEAK	North Pass	dead, condition unknown	floating	unknown	floating dead harbor seal	Reported by observer on whale watching boat.
2015101	June	26	SCAK	23 nm south of Seward	alive, condition unknown	beached	unknown	injured seal	Pulled to shore. Back looks thin, lethargic, easily approachable, shivering, no vocals. Some locals wanted to shoot it.
2015102	June	15	SCAK	Montague Island, Port Chalmers	dead, condition unknown	floating	unknown	floating harbor seal	Reported floating with rope or net marks on it.
2015107	July	6	SEAK	Juneau	alive, condition unknown	beached	unknown	possibly dead harbor seal	Harbor seal on beach - condition unknown.

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2015112	~July	1	WAK	Chirikof Island	dead, condition unknown	beached	unknown	beached harbor seal	Stranded harbor seal noted by field crew on Chirikof, requested more information
2015126	June	10	Kodiak	Gibson Cove Rd	fresh dead	beached	adult	decapitated, dumped harbor seal	Seal dumped in plastic bag with head and guts cleanly removed. Reported to OLE.
2015132	July	13	SEAK	Ketchikan Harbor	moderate decomposition	floating	unknown	floating harbor seal(s)	NMFS enforcement (Ketchikan) and AKR Networkmet up in the area , located 1 seal floating with advanced decomposition, no other seals were found NB: see later report 2015146). They both felt nothing was salvageable that could inform us of cause of death and we left it as is. Mike is still getting calls that there may be at least one more floating along the waterfront and he is investigating.
2015133	July	13	SEAK	Chignik Lagoon	alive	beached	pup/calf	abandoned harbor seal pup for rehab	Baby seal in hand, caller has it in a container in water. "scars" on face as if it was bitten. Has a full set of teeth, no umbi. Alert, "rolly polly". They are going out fishing in 1 hour. Found and picked up ~4 hours prior to calling ASLC..Acquired photos, talked her through allowing the pup to rest in a cool quiet area for the night. She and her family were going to be on a boat fishing all night.

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2015136	June	7	WAK	Egegik, NE AK Peninsula	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	abandoned harbor seal pup	Seal pup observed for 1 1/2 weeks laying on the beach. Hasn't seen any other seals around. Calling for mom, skinny, "elastic skin", looked at him on approach then laid head back down. Disappeared before could be retrieved.
2015137	June	16	WAK	Naknek, NE AK Peninsula	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	harbor seal pup to rehab	Seal pup around the cannery in Naknek, swimming by boats vocalizing and then coming onto shore. Animal appears to be very skinny (can see outline of ribs easily) otherwise is moving around but slowly, potentially having a hard time swimming. . No other seals seen in area since ~mid day the day prior.
2015138	June	17	WAK	Pilot Point, NE AK Peninsula	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	harbor seal pup to rehab	Seal pup spent night in his bath tub. He was given the seal from some "kids" that found it and said they thought the mother had been shot. Pup escaped from wash tub to nearby freshwater lake; was able to be recovered, sent to Anchorage next day; skinny and dehydrated.
2015139	July	16	SEAK	Lincoln Island, Juneau	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	abandoned harbor seal pup	Caller said there was a thin seal pup 3 beaches south of the cabin anchorage. Looked like had been there awhile, above high tide line. Possibly some blood on flippers. They put some bleached plankton upright to mark the area. Weather prevented

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2015144	July	20	SEAK	Lawson Creek Beach, Juneau	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	abandoned HS pup for rehab	
2015146	July	19	SEAK	Tongass Narrows, Ketchikan	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached decomposed harbor seal	Probably one of the 3 reported along with 2015132.
2015148	July	20	SCAK	upper Cook Inlet	moderate decomposition	floating	unknown	floating harbor seal	Noted during seismic survey, possible wound around head but very decomposed.
2015152	July	20	SEAK	Metlakatla, SW of Ketchikan	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	abandoned/orphaned seal pup	The pup was severely dehydrated and malnourished, with multiple puncture wounds covering all areas of her body and suspected sepsis. She passed away Thursday morning.
2015154	July	23	SCAK	Otter Cove, Kachemak Bay	dead, condition unknown	see notes	unknown	dead harbor seal	No further information available.
2015161	July	25	SCAK	upper Cook Inlet, near Forelands	moderate decomposition	floating	adult	floating harbor seal	Reported by "protected species observers" aboard the Arctic Wolf doing seismic testing.
2015165	July	27	SCAK	Copper River Delta	fresh dead	beached	juvenile/subadult	beached harbor seal	Observed during Copper River Delta SSL survey. Blood around mouth and possibly hemorrhage into lungs, but no indication of trauma. Metal detector - neg.

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2015166	July	27	SCAK	Copper River Delta	advanced decomposition	beached	juvenile/subadult	beached harbor seal	Observed during Copper River Delta SSL survey. No evidence of trauma. Metal detector - neg.
2015167	July	27	SCAK	Copper River Delta	moderate decomposition	beached	juvenile/subadult	beached harbor seal	Observed during Copper River Delta SSL survey. Blood around head, fractured skull with large cranial hole. Metal detector - neg.
2015169	July	26	Kodiak	Ugak Bay, Kodiak Island	moderate decomposition	beached	unknown	beached harbor seal	This harbor seal was reported on a beach near in Ugak Bay.
2015174	July	31	SEAK	Sitka	alive	injured/sick	unknown	ill/injured harbor seal	7/31/2015 AJ talked to caller and to OLE Sitka. OLE has checked out this seal. May be the same seal which was monitored earlier this spring. It's lethargic, floating with the tide, and may have some sort of deformity. Our current plan is for OLE to assess its condition when it hauls out and get some close range photos.
2015179	June	23	WAK	Egegik, NE AK Peninsula	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	abandoned HS pup for rehab	Transported to King salmon by AK state troopers via helicopter. Held overnight by trooper and flight out of KS on 6/24. Arrived early evening at ASLC, died during admit exam.

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2015195	Aug	10	SCAK	Kayak Island, Cordova	advanced decomposition	beached	unknown	beached harbor seal	Observed on USCG flight, skull smashed and intestines extruding, but very decomposed.
2015200	Aug	9	SEAK	Black Sands Beach, Ketchikan	advanced decomposition	beached	adult	beached harbor seal	This was reported with the attached picture on a state public beach called Black Sand beach by a tour operator.
2015205	Aug	16	SCAK	Homer Spit	moderate decomposition	beached	unknown	beached harbor seal	Report of dead seal with injuries to the head and abdomen. Bottom jaw missing and laceration in abdomen with bowels extruding. Could not tell if associated with human interaction.
2015206	Aug	16	SCAK	Upper Cook Inlet	moderate decomposition	floating	adult	floating harbor seal	Observed aboard seismic vessel Fairweather, high in the water with bloating and some scavenging on ventral side.
2015222	Aug	20	SEAK	Yakutat	moderate decomposition	beached	unknown	beached harbor seal	Reported by Yakutat resident, head was missing with jagged edges (predation?), no bullet holes noted. NPS later saw evidence that carcass had been present but was no longer there
2015226	Aug	26	SEAK	Tongass Narrows, Ketchikan	alive	injured/sick	unknown	injured/ill harbor seal	Unusual behavior observed in harbor seal, surfacing and "gaspings" for air repeatedly, observer thinks may have swallowed fishing lure with people casting nearby
2015241	Sept	6	Kodiak	Mouth of Old River, Kodiak	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	harbor seal pup	Relocated to isolated beach

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2015244	Sept	1	SEAK	POW	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	abandoned HS pup for rehab	Died after arrival
2015245	Aug	22	SCAK	Homer	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	abandoned HS pup for rehab	Died after arrival
2015250	Sept	8	SEAK	Yakutat	moderate decomposition	shot	unknown	beached harbor seal	COD considered gunshot to head
2015253	July	25	SCAK	Resurrection Bay	advanced decomposition	beached	pup/calf	dead harbor seal pup	Headless and decomposing
2015255	Aug	1	SCAK	Homer	alive	abandoned/orphaned	pup/calf	abandoned HS pup for rehab	Euthanized on arrival due to compound fractures of both flippers
2015292	Oct	5	SCAK	Nikiski	advanced decomposition	floating	unknown		
2015298	June	29	SCAK	Point Pogibshi	alive, condition unknown	injured/sick	unknown	possibly ill harbor seal	Observer said rear flipper looked injured and not working properly.

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