



sea lion



DESCRIPTION



- **Sea Lions** are sea **mammals** with external ear flaps and long flippers. They can walk on all four! They've got short, thick hair, and a big chest and belly. Together with the fur seals, they comprise the family Otariidae.
- A male sea lion weighs on average about 300kg and is about 2.4 m long, whereas a female sea lion weighs on average about 100kg and is about 1.8m long.
- They have an lifespan of 20–30 years.

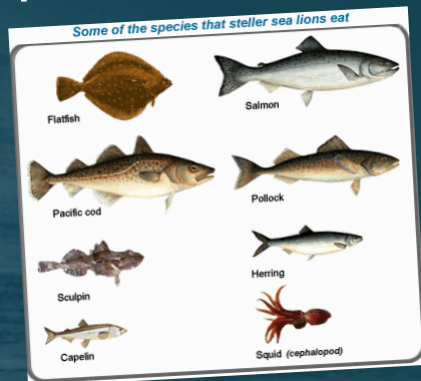
HABITAT

- Sea Lions are generally found in **huge colonies**. They remain very close together both on land and in the ocean.
- Larger colonies may have sub colonies within them and the animals may move from one to the other at different stages of their lives. The colonies are often observed relaxing and basking in the sun on the **shores** or **rocks**.
- Sea Lions are found in all sorts of waters except the Northern Atlantic Ocean. Some species live in sub arctic regions while others prefer warmer climates such as the Californian Sea Lion



diet

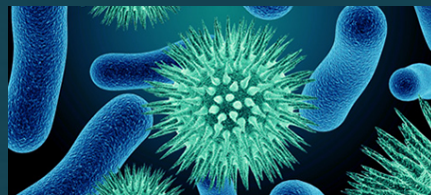
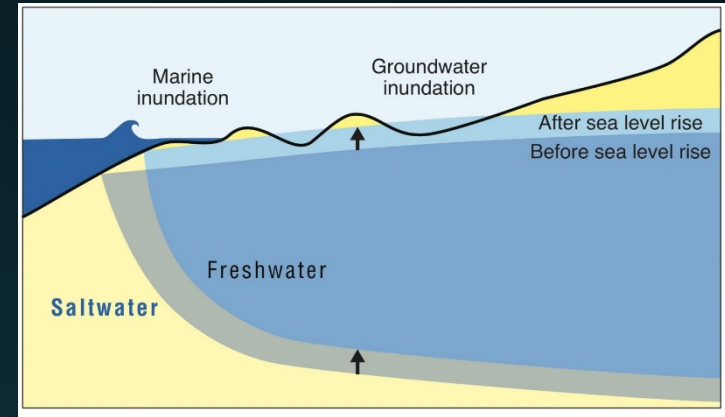
- Sea Lions are classified as an Endangered Species. The **hunting** of Sea Lions is a huge threat to their survival. In some areas they are hunted as a source of food.
- The Sea Lion has only two other predators apart from man. These are sharks, in particular the Great White Shark and also Killer Whales. Sea Lions are much more likely to encounter these predators when they have to further out into the waters to find food.
- Sea lions usually eat flatfish, salmon, pacific cod, sculpin, capelin, pollock, herring or squid.



THREATS

Sea lions are mainly threatened by:

- **Sea Level Rise and Ocean Acidification** caused by climate change. Currently used sites by sea lions are destroyed or submerged resulting in the death of small pups.
- **Disease and Parasites.** Sea lions, in specific adult females and pups are more vulnerable to this threat.



OTHER SPECIES



- **California Sea Lion** – one of the most familiar sea lions. They are friendly animals often seen doing tricks in various locations while in captivity.
- **Steller Sea Lion** – the largest of the species in the world. The males can be as long as 11 feet and weigh 2,500 pounds.
- **Australian Sea Lion** – Males are dark brown with a light yellow mane around their heads.
- **Galapagos Sea Lion** – very large, with the males being about 1,000 pounds when they are fully grown.
- **New Zealand Sea Lion** – also known as the Hooker's Sea Lion, the New Zealand Sea Lion is one of the largest animals found in New Zealand.
- **South American Sea Lion** – the technical name for the South American Sea Lion is actually the Patagonian Sea Lion.
- **Japanese Sea Lion** – the only way you can see a Japanese Sea Lion is in books, pictures, or online. They no longer exist, which is very sad to say.