

A GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA PINNIPEDS

Northern Elephant Seal



Male and Female



Head and Tiny Ear Hole



Fore Flippers



Hind Flippers

California Sea Lion



Female (no sagittal crest)



Head and Ear Flap



Fore Flippers



Hind Flippers

Harbor Seal



Gender Not Apparent



Head and Ear Hole



Fore Flippers



Hind Flippers

No pinnae (ear flaps)	Ear pinnae (ear flaps) present	No pinnae (ear flaps)
Ear hole not visible		Ear hole visible
Black whiskers	Beige and brown whiskers	White whiskers—spotted fur
Fore flippers are haired	Fore flippers mostly hairless	Fore flippers are haired
Nails present	Nails rudimentary	Nails present
Hind flippers haired—nails absent	Hind flippers hairless	Hind flippers haired—nails present
Hind flippers always behind body	Can bring hind flippers under body	Hind flippers always behind body
Male 3,000 to 5,000 lbs.	Male 900 lbs.	Male 300 lbs.
Female 900 to 1,800 lbs.	Female 250 lbs.	Female 250 lbs.
Pups born at 60 to 80 lbs.	Pups born at 13 to 20 lbs.	Pups born at 15 to 25 lbs.