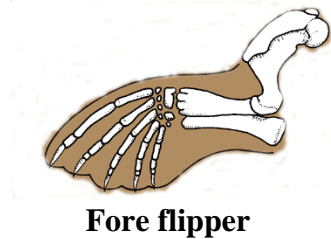
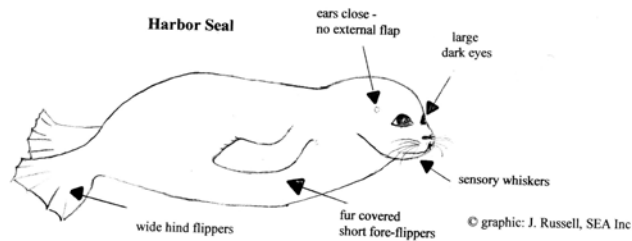
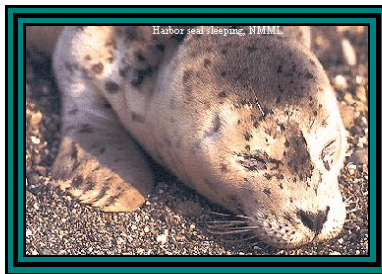


## Harbor Seal Anatomy



### harbor seal fore flipper

**Note:** the articulated digits that resemble human fingers with nails at the tip of digits. Both the front and hind flippers are webbed.



**Photos:** NMML, USF&W image library,  
**Resources:** NMML, NOAA, OIMB.

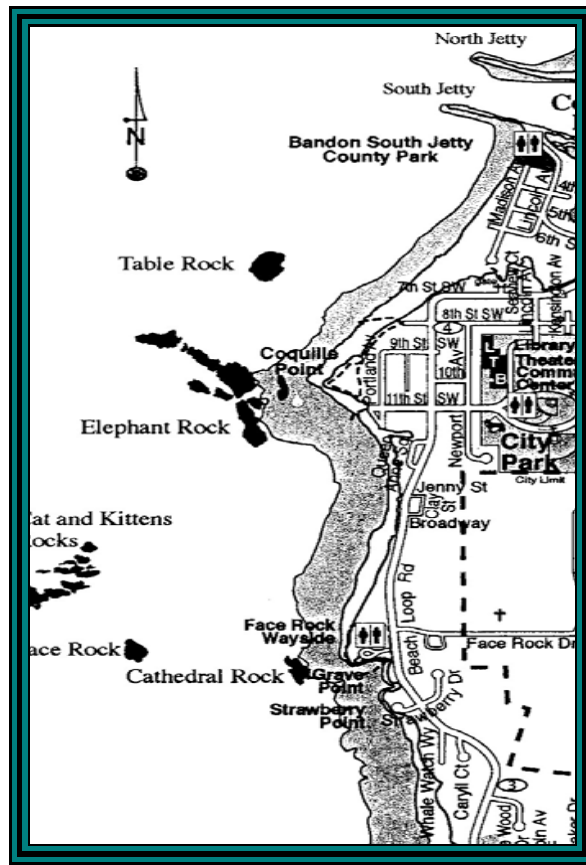


Photo: Bill Russell

**Coquille Point** has beautiful viewing areas with walking paths, interpretive signs, benches to rest. Wildlife naturalist on duty in spring to mid July (10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.). There is direct access to the beach from the south and north sides of the Point.

## Shoreline Education for Awareness

SEA is a non profit with volunteer naturalists to assist visitors and residents to enjoy the natural history of the south coast of Oregon. SEA is tax exempt; donations are accepted.

**Shoreline Adventures** is a 3-hour tour package to visit several of the marine mammal and bird habitat sites in the area.

### What is there to see in Bandon?

- Harbor seals, shorebirds & seabirds!
- Intertidal life along Bandon's beautiful beach.
- Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Reserve.
- Hidden coves and pristine beaches.

### What to see in the surrounding area?

- Cape Arago Hwy beginning at Charleston OR; state parks, trails, picnic areas, camping and beautiful floral gardens.
- View seals and sea lions in their natural habitat at Simpson Reef, Shore Acres State Park.
- Watch for whales most of the year!
- Intertidal at South Cove, Cape Arago and Sunset Bay within Sunset Bay State Park.

SEA would like to provide our visitors with the best possible tour! There is no charge for our service but donations are accepted! Please call for reservations



### Shoreline Education for Awareness, Inc.

Friends of Southern Oregon Coastal National Wildlife Refuges  
PO Box 957, Bandon OR 97411-0957  
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Web Site: [www.sea-edu.org](http://www.sea-edu.org)

Design and Layout by Joan Russell, SEA Inc.  
SEA Logo by Sara Duvall

## Harbor Seal (*phoca vitulina*)



View the harbor seals in their natural habitat while they rest on the low rocks at *Coquille Point*. You may be lucky enough, in the early spring, to see a pup born or watch the many seabirds and shorebirds and their chicks on the off-shore rocks Thrill at the sight of crashing waves over and through the rocky crevices on a stormy day or enjoy a quiet walk on the beach to find interesting intertidal animals, agates or shells!

**Coquille Point**, a part of **Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge**, provides a wonderful location to view seabirds and shorebirds, harbor seals, and the gray whale plus exploring the intertidal areas.

Because the wildlife species can easily be disturbed, the rocks and islands are closed to public access.

8-1-2010

## DESCRIPTION ~

**Weight:** Male/female. 250-400 lbs. (125 - 200 kg)

**Length:** about 5 ft. (1.7 - 1.9 m)

**Pup:** approx. 25 - 35 lbs. at birth (12 - 18 kg).

**Born:** Spring in the Pacific NW.

Harbor seals are a true seal that have ears but no external ear flaps. They vary in color from light to dark gray with irregular shaped black spots. Their short front flippers are webbed with nails at the tips, and they move their rear webbed rear flippers from side to side to swim.

In the spring (April-June) they can be seen giving birth and nursing on the off-shore low rocks. Pups are "parked" on the beach while the mother foraging for food. The harbor seal pup can swim at birth.

**RANGE & HABITAT~** The harbor seal is found from Alaska to Baja California on the eastern rim of the Pacific ocean. They prefer near-shore coastal waters and are often seen resting on off-shore rocks, sandy beaches, sand bars, mud flats, and foraging in bays, rivers, and estuaries.

**BREEDING ~** Male harbor seals usually mate with a number of females each year beginning about the age of 4 - 5. Beginning at age 3 the female will give birth to one pup per year. In the Pacific Northwest pups are born between March to early June. The time and place of fertilization is unknown.

Humans standing too close or in contact with the pup may keep the mother from returning. The pup is weaned at about 4 weeks.



*harbor seals are frequently observed resting on low rocks*

**FOOD ~** They feed on a large variety of fish, often eating what is most common in the area.

**PREDATOR ~** The orca and great white shark.

Resource: Oregon Institute of Marine Biology  
8-1-2010

## BEHAVIOR ~

The harbor seal is a solitary animal but appears to be curious about the activities of humans! They can be seen most any time in the inner harbor, of coastal towns, and in the Coquille River or just off-shore. When they haul-out on beaches, sand bars, and off-shore rocks they appear to be in groups, however, it is the location that draws them, not the other seals. They are usually silent but can vocalize. The public can usually see only the head of the harbor seal while in the water.

Their average dive lasts 3 to 7 minutes and it is typically a shallow dive.

**STATUS ~** There are about 15,000+ harbor seals in Oregon. They can be seen at Coquille Point or other low lying rocks in Bandon and other coastal towns. More than 1,000 have been counted at Simpson Reef near Shore Acres State park. It is possible to see pups born on the Bandon off-shore rocks, and at Simpson Reef, Cape Arago Hwy from March to May.



*Harbor seal "At rest"*

## VIEWING TIP

Early morning is a good time to see harbor seals on off-shore rocks when the tide is in! Other times search the Coquille River or inner bay in Bandon or other coastal towns or near to shore rocks.

## OTHER MARINE MAMMALS THAT MAY BE SEEN

**The Gray whale** - is seen year 'round and one of the best opportunities is between December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>; the official **Whale Watch week** for the southern migration to the breeding lagoons in Baja California. Whale Watch Volunteers are present from 10 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. to help visitors spot them and other wildlife present. **Spring Whale Watch (northern migration time)** is the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in March: Volunteers are also present 10 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.).

**Orcas** - can be seen swimming close to shore and in the *Coquille River* usually in the spring. Sightings are not frequent but do occur.

**Humpback whales** - are spotted occasionally on their way to summer feeding grounds in Alaska. Watch for them breaching (most of the body out of the water)!

**Birding - Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge** is located on Riverside Rd in Bandon. The road begins at the East end of 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Old Town at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> & Filmore. Watch for parking on the west side of road. The **Ni-les'tun unit of Bandon Marsh NWR** viewing platform is open also. Take North Bank Lane (just north of the bridge); East side of Hwy 101, drive about 1 mile; on the right is the viewing platform and parking.