

## Summary of Sea Lion Sightings

We have completed two years of Steller Sea Lion observations. These are “opportunistic” in that guides as they encounter the animals are encouraged to make notes on them and photograph the animals. This chart includes both years with the raw data of observations made.

Location	2018			2019			CHANGE	
	Observations	Total	Ave	Observations	Total	Ave	Δ Obs	Δ Total
Benjamin Island	6	823	137	21	1297	62	+350%	-55%
Faust Rock	54	287	5	130	598	5	+241%	Same
Little Island	19	5932	312	19	3458	182	Same	-42%
North Pass	0	0	0	2	6	3		
Poundstone Rock	2	18	9	18	92	5		
At Sea	9	18	6	16	34	2		
TOTAL	90	7078		190	5451		+211	-23%

Some interesting observations can be made from this data:

- While the total number of animals at **Benjamin Island** increased by 350%, the average number seen dropped by 55%. Does this mean that few animals are using this haulout in the spring?
- **Little Island** dropped 42% in the total number of animals seen as well as a drop in the average number of animals seen of 42%. Are fewer animals using the haulout in the fall?
- **With significant drops in the total number and average number seen at both haulouts with a much larger number of observations does this mean the total number of animals in our waters is falling?**
- The two buoys have very similar numbers for both years. This is most likely due to the limited space on the buoy for animals to occupy. The number of “aggressive” behaviors seems to have increased with the larger number animals seen at the buoys.

## Entangled Sea Lions Encountered

**No entangled Steller Sea Lion were encountered in 2019.**

## Branded Sea Lions Encountered

We find a very dramatic drop in the number of branded Steller Sea Lions encountered. In 2018 eleven branded animals were photographed. **In 2019 we only encountered two branded animals!**

**W335** was recorded on June 19 by Scott Ranger at Benjamin Island

**50L** (the brand appears more like 50V and requires a careful look) was recorded six times:

1. 07-28 by Kieran Poulson-Edwards at Little Island
2. 08/11 by Alli Donaldson at Little Island
3. 08/16 by Scott Ranger at Little Island
4. 09/04 by Maureen Lare and Scott Ranger at Faust Rock
5. 09/08 by Maureen Lare at Faust Rock
6. 09/08 by Alana Davis at Faust Rock

## Panoramic Counts

Scott Ranger records panoramic shots at Benjamin and Little Islands we he visits them. The original shot as well as one marked with the count of animals and has already submitted these to Kelly Hastings and Lauri Jemison of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

*Benjamin Island*

May 8, June 12, June 18, June 19

*Little Island*

July 30, August 1, August 16, August 19, September 23



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