

Summary of Sea Lion Sightings

We have completed four years of Steller Sea Lion observations, skipping the entire 2020 season and with an abbreviated and much smaller 2021 season. 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 years with the raw data of observations made.

Location	2017			2018			2019			2021		
	Obs	Total	Ave	Obs	Total	Ave	Obs	Total	Ave	Obs	Total	Ave
Aaron Island										2	7	4
At Sea	19	58	3	9	18	6	16	34	2	2	5	3
Benjamin Island	10	1154	115	6	823	137	21	1297	62	2	553	277
Faust Rock	42	205	5	54	287	5	130	598	5	9	29	3
Little Island	20	4,433	222	19	5932	312	19	3458	182	6	1253	209
North Pass				0	0	0	2	6	3	3	15	5
Poundstone Rock	12	55	5	2	18	9	18	92	5	4	6	2
TOTAL	103	5,905		90	7078		190	5451		21	1868	

Some interesting observations can be made from this data:

- **Benjamin Island** continues to be a spring haulout, but 303 were there on October 11, rather early from the normal February to June use period expected.
- **Little Island** continues as the late summer and fall haulout. The raw numbers are very hard to decipher with the limited visits to the island in 2021. Two guides witnessed a massive charge to the sea by nearly all the animals. Both times the boat was about 200 yards offshore. What caused them to charge?
- **Buoys:** The two buoys have very similar. This is most likely due to the limited space on the buoy for animals to occupy.
- **Age Mix:** The number of 1 and 2 year old animals seems much higher in 2021 than in the past, but this is just a feeling, not from a count of animals.

Entangled Sea Lions Encountered



For the first time since 2017, a single entangled sea lion was observed on September 17 at Little Island. It appears to be a green and white flasher with lots of tangled line. It is difficult to determine if it is just sitting on the ground or is caught on the animal. A note with photographs was emailed to Kim Raum-Suryan that evening.

Branded Sea Lions Encountered

Just like 2019 we only encountered two branded animals in 2021!



71V was photographed on September 17 by Scott Ranger at Little Island

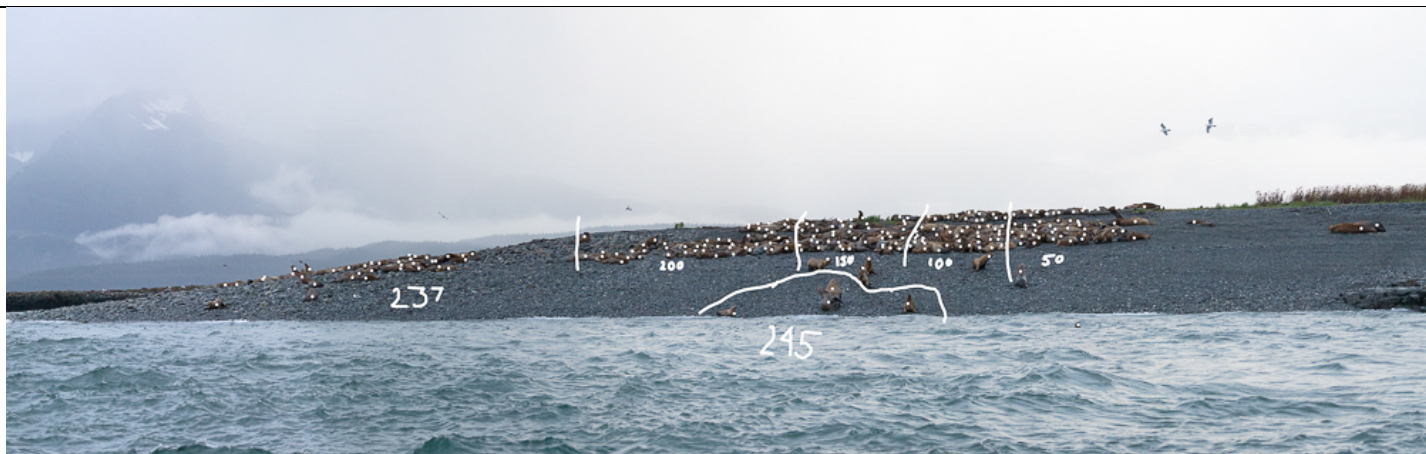


67V was photographed on October 11 by Scott Ranger at Benjamin Island

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has not branded any new animals since 2016 which is probably the reason for the decline in sighting branded animals.

Panoramic Counts

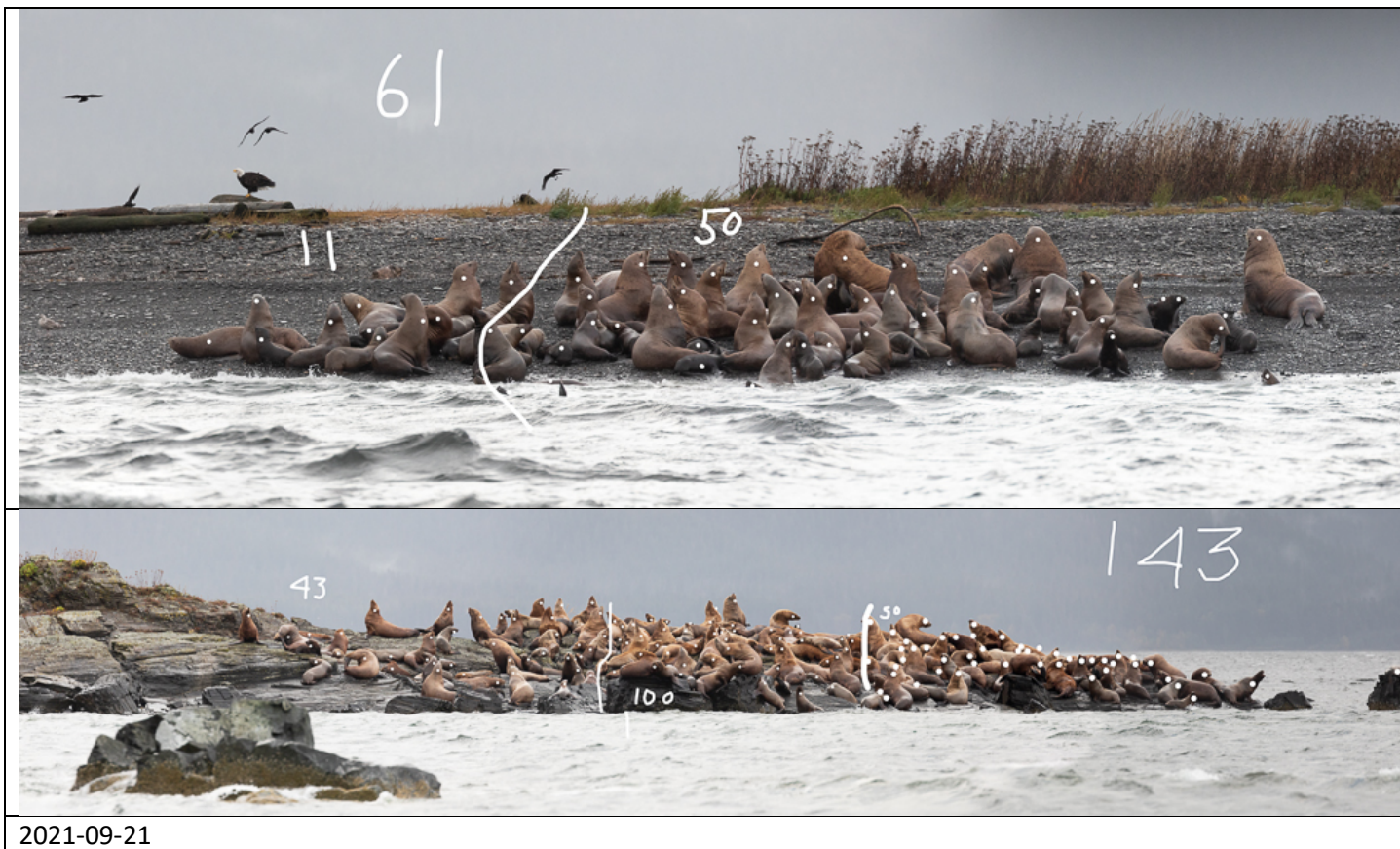
Little Island.....



2021-09-05



2021-09-17

*Benjamin Island*

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