

- [View All Classifieds](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Cars & Trucks](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Rentals](#)
- [Place an ad](#)

[>Brookings Oregon News, Sports, & Weather | The Curry Coastal Pilot](#)

- [Pilot E-mail Alerts](#)
- [Subscriptions](#)
- [Photo Reprints](#)
- [Submit News Tip or Event](#)

AccuWeather.com*
Brookings
 **55 F**
7-day forecast

[**Brookings, OR forecast with web cams & tide information**](#)


- [News](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Events & Activities](#)
- [Guides & Directories](#)



- [About Us](#)

- [Local News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Stocks](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Police Reports](#)
- [Weather & Web Cams](#)
- [Submit News](#)

Search: News Yellow Pages Classifieds Web

web powered by 



Give website feedback

Send comments on the Pilot's new website.

[Click here to e-mail us](#)

[Home](#) » [News](#) » [Local News](#) » **What's killing local seals, sea lions?**

 [print this](#)

 [e-mail this](#)

What's killing local seals, sea lions?

Written by [Arwyn Rice, Pilot staff writer](#) October 07, 2009 06:00 am



Harbor seal pups. The Pilot/Scott Graves

Dead seals and sea lions – possible victims of starvation caused by El Niño conditions – are littering the beaches of California and Oregon, including areas just north and south of Brookings.

Yearlings and new pups have been dying by the thousands from Chile to Oregon, wildlife officials reported.

On Oct. 2 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced the die-off is due to upwellings caused by the El Niño pool of warm water currently developing in the Pacific. The upwelling disrupts the food chain, causing a domino effect and leaving the pinnipeds without food.

Older seals and sea lions know where to go to find food during lean times, but mothers must leave their pups to find food and yearlings don't yet have enough experience to find a meal, according to Vicky Farr, marine mammal stranding coordinator for the North Cast Marine Mammal Center in Crescent City, Calif.

The center has treated 85 animals this summer, compared to a "normal" summer of about 50 animals, Farr said. More than 100 have been treated since January.

The Marine Mammal Center in Marin County, Calif., just north of San Francisco, treated more than 1,200 seals and sea lions this summer.

The worst is over, Farr said. Currently the Crescent City facility only has four animals in its care.

However, the summer of death has left seal and sea lion carcasses rotting on beaches.

Visitors to Crissey Field Welcome Center have reported several sea lions either sick or dead in the area. Most are left on the beach to allow natural processes to dispose of the carcasses, U.S. Forest Service Information Assistant Jackie Ringulet said.

The carcass of a large male sea lion is still on the beach south of the center. A tagged sea lion was found at Lone Ranch Beach, Ringulet said.

But the El Niño is not the only explanation for pinniped deaths in Oregon.

“There is plenty of their food out there for them right now, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Resource Specialist Brandon Ford said.

Usually seal and sea lion deaths in Oregon could be caused by leptospirosis infections. Leptospirosis is a bacterial kidney disease which is almost always fatal to sea lions and seals.

“If you see a sea lion or seal bent over and miserable looking, it’s probably leptospirosis,” Ford said.

The disease can be treated by antibiotics, but only if it is caught early. The illness reduces energy for finding fish, as well as appetite.

Since sea lions and seals get almost all of their water from the fish they eat, starvation leads to dehydration and death.

Officials urge people to stay away from sick or dead animals and do not touch them, Ford said.

“People can get (leptospirosis), too,” he said.

Dogs should not be let loose on beaches while dead sea mammals are on the beach. Dogs tend to root into dead animal carcasses.

“It can affect them, it’s pretty bad stuff,” Ford said.

~~~

Wildlife officials offer the following advice regarding dead or sick sea mammals:

- Do not touch beached mammals. These animals are sometimes aggressive and can inflict severe bites.
- Keep people and pets away.
- Do not disturb or chase them into the water. Animals may simply be resting and may not need help.
- Note the exact location, including landmarks In California call the North Coast Marine Mammal Center in Crescent City at 707-457-3138. In Oregon call the Oregon State University Marine Mammal Stranding Hotline at 541-270-6830.

 [print this](#)

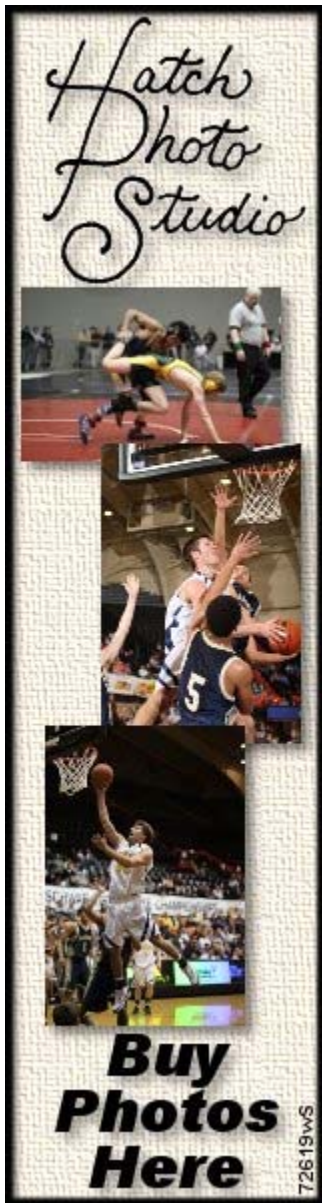
 [e-mail this](#)

 [rss feed](#)

 [subscribe](#)

## Other Regional Newspapers

- [The Daily Triuplicate](#)
- [Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association members](#)



## Featured Classifieds



[Advertise FREE one full week! No purchase ...](#)



[Excellent area 929 Third St., This beautiful ...](#)



[Garage Sale Combo\\* Draw more traffic This ...](#)



[FREE MAPS Our 2009 Map of Curry County ...](#)

[» view all classifieds](#)



**[Latest Computer News](#)**  
Find The Latest Breaking News On Any Topic, Free! Try it now.  
[news.Google.com](http://news.Google.com)

**[Sea Lion Animal](#)**  
Great deals on everything Sea Lion themed.  
[Yahoo.com](http://Yahoo.com)

**[Going to Brookings?](#)**  
Get the Scoop from Traveler Know Brookings!  
[www.TripAdvisor.com](http://www.TripAdvisor.com)

Ads

[News](#)


- [Local](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Stocks](#)
- [Obituaries](#)

- [Police Reports](#)
- [Weather & Web Cams](#)
- [Submit News](#)
- 

### [Opinion](#)

- [Editorials](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Columns](#)
- [Submit a letter](#)

### [Photos](#)

- [Curry Coastal Pilot Photos](#)
- [Community Photos](#)
- [Photo Reprints](#)
- 

### [Events & Activities](#)

- [Bulletin Board](#)
- [Schedules/Activities](#)

### [Guides & Directories](#)

- [Brookings-Harbor Map](#)
- [Wild Rivers Coast Vacation Guide](#)
- [Business Directory](#)
- [Health & Fitness Directory](#)
- [Community](#)
- [E-mail White Pages](#)
- [Web Links](#)


### [Submit News](#)

- [Event](#)
- [Birth](#)
- [Wedding](#)
- [Anniversary](#)
- [Engagement](#)
- [Obituary](#)
- [Letter to the editor](#)
- [Sports result](#)
- [News tip](#)

### [Classifieds](#)

-

[View All Classifieds](#)

- [Jobs](#)
- [Autos](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Rentals](#)
- [Place an Ad](#)
-  RSS

**The Curry Coastal Pilot:**

PO Box 700  
Brookings, OR 97415

(541) 469-3123  
[mail@currypilot.com](mailto:mail@currypilot.com)

- [About](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Commercial Printing](#)
- [Subscriptions](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [DMCA](#)
- [Advertising Rate Card](#)
- [Pilot E-mail Alerts](#)

Follow Curry Coastal Pilot headlines on 

© Copyright 2001 - 2009 [Western Communications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved. By Using this site you agree to our [Terms of Use](#)

CurryPilot.com works best with the latest versions of [Mozilla Firefox](#), [Microsoft Internet Explorer](#) or [Apple Safari](#)