

Vocalizations in Northern Fur Seals

OBJECTIVE

Students will learn that males, females, and pups have different vocalizations.

TIME REQUIRED

10 minutes

BACKGROUND

Northern fur seals have a variety of calls. Female seals and pups use their calls to identify each other. Students will listen to fur seal vocalizations and describe them.

MATERIALS

Pribilof Islands, Preserving the Legacy DVD or website

PROCEDURES

Students will watch a short video segment on northern fur seal research (Video clip “Fur Seal Research” in the Video Gallery section) or listen to northern fur seal audio files from the resources listed below. Students will describe the vocalizations that they hear, and identify them as coming from a male, a female, or a pup.

DISCUSSION

- What do they sound like? Are the sounds what you think a seal sounds like, or are they different?
- Why do the animals have different vocalizations?

RESOURCES

Pribilof Islands: Preserving the Legacy DVD or website
http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/noaa_documents/NOS/ORR/TM_NOS_ORR/TM_NOS-ORR_17/HTML/Pribilof_html/Images/Movies/SealResearch.mpg

Northern Fur Seals
<http://www.dosits.org/audio/interactive/#/70>

Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics
The Ohio State University (used with permission
borrowerlab@osu.edu)
<http://blb.biosci.ohio-state.edu/commonname.asp>
Search on northern fur seal.

EXTENSION FOR PRIBILOF STUDENTS

On the field trip to the blind, listen for different vocalizations. Try to record the vocalizations with a video camera or tape recorder. Play back the vocalizations in the classroom. Can you distinguish between the males, females and pups?

Post your video on YouTube for other students.

Listen to other pinniped vocalizations.
Scripps Institute of Oceanography: Voices of the Sea
http://cet.uscd.edu/voicesinthesea_org/species/pinnipeds/caSeaLion.html

Discovery of Sounds in the Sea
<http://www.dosits.org/audio/interactive>