



Seasonal fencing and signs to protect nests

Introduction

The Marine Mammal Stranding Network West Coast Region (MMSN-WCR) covers the beaches and bay shorelines of Washington, Oregon, and California. One recent challenge facing the network has been increased difficulty in mounting effective responses to stranded marine mammals on beaches with endangered nesting birds, specifically the Western Snowy Plover (WSP).

With Prescott funding, we will connect MMSN-WCR organizations with local WSP monitors so that they can work collaboratively to minimize human disturbance to WSP during the breeding season while preserving the ability to respond to stranded marine mammals, including threatened and endangered species.

Case Study: CAS dead marine mammal stranding response in Point Reyes National Seashore on beaches with breeding Snowy Plovers, 2008 – 2017
*threatened or endangered species, **UME

Common Name	# Strandings
NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL	7
HARBOR SEAL	9
GUADALUPE FUR SEAL**	23
NORTHERN FUR SEAL	3
STELLER SEA LION	4
CALIFORNIA SEA LION**	45
MINKE WHALE*	1
HUMPBACK WHALE*	1
GRAY WHALE	2
ORCA	1
HARBOR PORPOISE	3
BAIRD'S BEAKED WHALE	1
Total	100



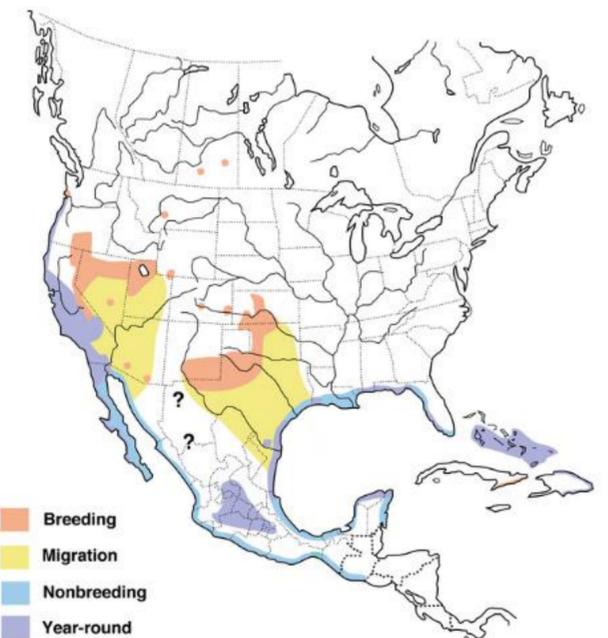
WSP with a clutch of eggs



Cryptic WSP nest on the beach

Project Objectives

- Introduce WSP Monitors to the MMSN-WCR and their local contacts.
- Inform WSP Monitors what data to collect and how to report live or dead stranded marine mammals.
- Introduce MMSN-WCR responders to WSP breeding areas and breeding behavior. "The Snowy Plover and You" <https://vimeo.com/215107829>
- Inform MMSN-WCR organizations how to avoid disturbing breeding WSP and connect them to their local WSP Monitors.
- Increase communication between both groups, especially during UMEs.



WSP distribution map

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Do you have Snowy Plovers breeding in your response area? Do you know your local WSP Monitors? For more information, contact Moe Flannery or Denise Greig (mflannery@calacademy.org, dgreig@calacademy.org).