

*The Galápagos fur seal is endemic to the Galápagos Islands, with a single colony in northern Peru, according to the Organisation for Research and Conservation of Aquatic Animals [citation needed]; they live on the rocky shores of the islands, which tend to be on the west sides, leaving only to feed.*

**Callorhinus ursinus Introduction** In the s, northern fur seals *Callorhinus ursinus* successfully recolonized San Miguel Island after the local population was extirpated by hunting. San Miguel Island is now one of three American northern fur seal colonies and the southernmost breeding colony in the world. The first seals to arrive had flipper tags identifying them as being from the Pribilof or Commander Islands in the Bering Sea. Today the San Miguel colony numbers around 10, animals. Their common name alludes to the thick coat that is needed by the species for protection from the cold weather and frigid waters found in both their feeding grounds and the majority of their breeding grounds. Before returning to the breeding colonies, many pups will remain at sea for up to 22 months. Adult females and sub-adults are moderate in build. Sexes are difficult to distinguish until about age 5. The neck, chest, and shoulders of adult males are greatly enlarged over those of females and sub-adults, although at the end of the breeding season males may be thin to the point of emaciation. Male pups weigh 12 pounds and grow to pounds and seven feet in length. In comparison, female pups only weigh 10 pounds and grow to pounds and 4. Adult females and sub-adults are medium to dark silver-grey above. The flanks, chest, sides, and underside of the neck are cream to tan. There are variable cream to tan colored areas on the sides and top of the muzzle, chin, and as a "brush stroke" running backwards under the eye. The fur of the outer part of the ear near the naked tip and the insertion is often pale. Adult males are medium grey to black, or reddish to dark brown all over. Adult males also have gray hair on the backs of their necks. The mane can have variable amounts of silver-grey or yellowish tinting on the guard hairs. Pups are born with a black pelt, which becomes dark brown with lighter coloration on the chest and belly. After 3 to 4 months, pups molt to adult female or sub-adult male coloring. The nose extends slightly beyond the mouth in females and moderately in males. Fur is absent on the top of the fore flipper and there is an abrupt look of a "clean shaven line" across the wrist. The hind flippers are about one-fourth of the total body length, the longest in any eared seal; they have extremely long, cartilaginous terminal flaps on all of the toes, beyond the position of the nails on the 3 central digits. They rarely come ashore except to breed or pup and are almost never seen on mainland beaches unless they are sick. They are carnivores that feed primarily at night without chewing their food; they swallow it whole or in large chunks. Northern fur seals eat a wide variety of small schooling fishes and squids. Diet composition varies between the six major breeding islands and changes during their annual migration. Sixty-three species of fishes and squids have been identified as part of the northern fur seal diet throughout their range. In the Bering Sea, northern fur seals primarily consume walleye pollock, squid, salmon, Pacific sandlance, northern smooth tongue, and Pacific herring. Between Alaska and California the primary prey species are northern anchovy, Pacific herring, squid, capelin, Pacific sandlance, Pacific whiting, salmon, Pacific saury, and various species of rockfish. Adult males establish territories in late May to early June and aggressively guard and herd 40 or more females. Pregnant females arrive at the rookeries in June and give birth one or two days later to a single pup. Once the female and pup have bonded and nursed for days, the female comes into estrus and is ready to mate once more, usually with the male in whose territory she gave birth. Once they have mated, females returns to the ocean for their first feeding trip after fasting for up to 10 days. During the next four months, nursing females make repeated trips to sea to feed, spending 7 to 10 days at sea and returning to land to spend time nursing their pups. Females deliver fat-rich milk to their pups, which depend on their mother for food until they are approximately 4 months old. Females, juveniles of both sexes, and pups begin to leave the islands in October to migrate south for the winter. Referring to the population of animals in the Pribilof Islands, the IUCN states that "[they have] experienced a significant, steep decline in recent years and [have] failed to recover despite the cessation of commercial harvesting. Although the global population is still over a million animals, the current downward trend in abundance remains a mystery.

*The Fur Seals And Fur-seal Islands Of The North Pacific Ocean: Observations On The Fur Seals Of The Pribilof Islands, [Leonhard Stejneger, United States.*

See Article History Alternative Title: The islands include St. Paul 40 square miles [ square km] , St. George 35 square miles [91 square km] , and two islets Otter and Walrus islands lying in the Bering Sea , about miles km west of the Alaska mainland and miles km north of the Aleutian Islands. Formed by basaltic lava eruptions, the islands are treeless but contain lush vegetation. Paul Island, part of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska. Bill Briggs The islands were visited in by Gavril Pribylov, a Russian sea captain, who discovered the rookeries of the northern fur seal s there. Known as Amiq by Aleut s, the islands then were uninhabited, but in the Russians forcibly relocated Aleuts to the islands to hunt the fur seals. Control of the islands was transferred from Russia to the United States with the Alaska Purchase Northern fur seals that visit the Pribilofs from April to November have been the focus of an international controversy. If the bachelors are hunted when they are ashore, the herd may be conserved; sealing at sea also called pelagic sealing permits no selectivity, and, moreover, many of the animals killed are lost. In sealing rights were leased to the Alaska Commercial Company. A tribunal ruled against the United States in After the U. Bureau of Fisheries had direct supervision of the sealing. In an interim convention on conservation signed by the United States, Japan, Canada, and the Soviet Union created the North Pacific Fur Seal Commission, which enabled the herds to increase dramatically. Commercial harvesting of fur seals has been prohibited off St. Paul islands since and , respectively, and since harvesting has been allowed for subsistence purposes only by Native Alaskans. The islands also have a wide array of other wildlife, which includes reindeer, Arctic blue foxes, harbour seals, whales, salmon, and halibut. Nearly three million birds, including some species puffins, auklets, and kittiwakes , pass through the islands on their migratory paths. Aleuts , who are closely related to the Eskimo s, make up the indigenous population of the Pribilof Islands. Formerly treated as wards by the U. Fish and Wildlife Service, they were granted substantial civil rights by the U. They gained greater rights under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act , under which local councils, school boards, and tribal councils were established. Paul city on St. Paul contains the largest remaining Aleut settlement in Alaska. Learn More in these related Britannica articles:

## Chapter 3 : Galapagos fur seal - Wikipedia

*These fur seals are only found on the Galapagos Islands, which is where their name stems from. If you aren't familiar with the location, it is a group of islands around Ecuador. They don't migrate anywhere else, but they do move down the shore to the breeding area that has been established for them.*

Northern fur seal, C. Along with Phocidae and Odobenidae, otariids are pinnipeds descending from a common ancestor most closely related to modern bears. The name pinniped refers to mammals with front and rear flippers. Otariids arose about million years ago in the Miocene, and were originally land mammals that rapidly diversified and adapted to a marine environment, giving rise to the semi-aquatic marine mammals that thrive today. Fur seals and sea lions are closely related and commonly known together as the "eared seals". Until recently, fur seals were all grouped under a single subfamily of Pinnipedia, called Arctocephalinae, to contrast them with Otariinae – the sea lions – based on the most prominent common feature, namely the coat of dense underfur intermixed with guard hairs. Nonetheless, all fur seals have certain features in common: For these reasons, the distinction remains useful. Fur seals comprise two genera: Callorhinus is represented by just one species in the northern hemisphere, the northern fur seal *Callorhinus ursinus*, and *Arctocephalus* is represented by eight species in the southern hemisphere. The southern fur seals comprising the genus *Arctocephalus* include: Antarctic fur seals, Galapagos fur seals, Juan Fernandez fur seals, New Zealand fur seals, brown fur seals, South American fur seals, and Subantarctic fur seals. Paul Island, Alaska Along with the previously mentioned thick underfur, fur seals are distinguished from sea lions by their smaller body structure, greater sexual dimorphism, smaller prey, and longer foraging trips during the feeding cycle. The physical appearance of fur seals varies with individual species but the main characteristics remain constant. Fur seals are characterized by their external pinnae, dense underfur, vibrissae, and long muscular limbs. They share with other otariids the ability to rotate their rear limbs forward, supporting their body and allowing them to ambulate on land. The surfaces of these long, paddle-like fore limbs are leathery with small claws. Otariids have a dog-like head, sharp, well-developed canines, sharp eyesight and keen hearing. They are extremely sexually dimorphic mammals, with the males often 2 to 5 times the size of the females, with proportionally larger heads, necks and chests. Size ranges from about 1. Most fur seal pups are born with a black-brown coat that molts at 2–3 months, revealing a brown coat that typically gets darker with age. Some males and females within the same species have significant differences in appearance, further contributing to the sexual dimorphism. Females and juveniles often have a lighter colored coat overall or only on the chest, as seen in South American fur seals. In a Northern fur seal population, the females are typically silvery-gray on the dorsal side and reddish-brown on their ventral side with a light gray patch on their chest. This makes them easily distinguished from the males with their brownish-gray to reddish-brown or black coats. Habitat[ edit ] Of the fur seal family, eight species are considered southern fur seals, and only one is found in the northern hemisphere. Colonies of fur seals can be seen throughout the Pacific and Southern oceans from south Australia, Africa, and New Zealand, to the coast of Peru and up to California. Fur seals are often found near isolated islands or peninsulas and can be seen hauling out onto the mainland during winter. Although they are not migratory, they have been observed wandering hundreds of miles from their breeding grounds in times of scarce resources. For example, the Subantarctic fur seal typically resides near temperate islands in the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans north of the Antarctic Polar Front, but juvenile males have been seen wandering as far north as Brazil and South Africa. Behavior and ecology[ edit ] A fur seal at Living Coasts, sunbathing on a rock A fur seal rookery with thousands of seals Typically, fur seals gather during the summer in large assemblages at specific beaches or rocky outcrops to give birth and breed. All species are polygynous, meaning dominant males reproduce with more than one female. For most species, total gestation lasts about Northern fur seal males aggressively select and defend the specific females in their harms. The males reach sexual maturity around the same time but do not become territorial or mate until 6–10 years. The breeding season typically begins in November and lasts 2–3 months. The Northern fur seals begin their breeding season as early as June due to their region, climate, and resources. In all cases, the males arrive a couple of

weeks early to fight for their territory and groups of females to mate with. They congregate at rocky, isolated breeding grounds and defend their territory through fighting and vocalization. Males typically do not leave their territory for the entirety of the breeding season, fasting and competing until all energy sources are depleted. The Juan Fernandez fur seals deviate from this typical behavior, using aquatic breeding territories not seen in other fur seals. Upon arriving to the breeding grounds, females give birth to their pups from the previous season. About a week later, the females will mate again and shortly after begin their feeding cycle. The feeding cycle typically consists of foraging and feeding at sea for about 5 days, then returning to the breeding grounds to nurse the pups for about 2 days. Mothers and pups locate each other using call recognition during nursing period. The Juan Fernandez fur seal has a particularly long feeding cycle, with about 12 days of foraging and feeding and 5 days of nursing. Most fur seals continue this cycle for about 9 months until they wean their pup. The exception to this is the Antarctic fur seal, which has a feeding cycle that lasts only 4 months. The remainder of the year, fur seals lead a largely pelagic existence in the open sea, pursuing their prey wherever it is abundant. Fur seals feed on moderately sized fish, squid, and krill. Several species of the southern fur seal also have sea birds, especially penguins, as part of their diets. Fur seals are opportunistic mammals tend to feed and dive in shallow waters at night, when their prey are swimming near the surface. The South American fur seals exhibit a different diet; adults feed almost exclusively on anchovies while juveniles feed on demersal fish, most likely due to availability. When fur seals were hunted in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, they hauled out on remote islands where no predators were present. The hunters reported being able to club the unwary animals to death one after another, making the hunt profitable, though the price per seal skin was low. Bracelet made from silver and seal fur The average lifespan of fur seals varies with different species from 13 to 25 years with females typically living longer. Most populations continue to expand as they recover from previous commercial hunting and environmental threats. Many fur seal species were heavily exploited by commercial sealers, especially during the 19th century when their fur was highly valued. Beginning in the s, the ports of Stonington and New Haven, Connecticut, were leaders of the American fur seal trade, which primarily entailed clubbing fur seals to death on uninhabited South Pacific islands, skinning them, and selling the hides in China. Currently, most species are protected and hunting is mostly limited to subsistence harvest. Globally, most populations can be considered healthy, mostly because they often prefer remote habitats that are relatively inaccessible to humans. Nonetheless, environmental degradation, competition with fisheries, and climate change potentially pose threats to some populations.

### Chapter 4 : Southern fur seals, *Arctocephalus gazella*- Antarctic fur seal

*The Galapagos fur seal is common around the archipelago and we will have a chance to see it in Santiago Island while on a Galapagos cruise. It is found in the shore zone, mainly along rocky shores. It is found in the shore zone, mainly along rocky shores.*

They have a grayish brown fur coat. The adult males of the species average 1. The females average 1. They spend more time out of the water than almost any other seal. These colonies are then divided into territories by the female seals during breeding season, which is mid-August to mid-November. Every mother seal claims a territory for herself and breeds her pup there. She then periodically returns to the pup and stays to suckle it for a few days before leaving on another hunting trip. Orphaned seal pups usually try to sneak up on sleeping or calling females to suckle, but stealing milk is not enough to sustain the pups, and they usually die within a month. Such a bet-hedging strategy is particularly useful in Galapagos fur seals, since there is a great deal of maternal investment in raising a seal pup to independence in an environment that has great fluctuations in food. The high level of resource uncertainty, late weaning, and potential overlap time of suckling young all lead to violent sibling rivalry and provide a good environment for studying parent-offspring conflict. Mothers would bite or lift the older offspring roughly by its skin, which sometimes caused open wounds. Even without direct aggression, older siblings may still indirectly harm their younger siblings by outcompeting them for milk. The older offspring usually suckles first and allows their younger sibling access to the mother only after it is satiated, resulting in very little milk left over for the younger pup. Thus, the younger siblings often die from starvation. They primarily feed at night because their prey is much easier to catch then. Occasionally, sharks and orcas have been seen feeding on the seals, but this is very rare. Thousands of these seals were killed for their fur in the s by poachers. Starting in , Ecuador established strict laws to protect these animals. The population is relatively stable now and is on the rise. Since no major calamity has occurred to decrease their population significantly.

## Chapter 5 : Antarctic Fur Seal

*The Fur Seal Act Amendments of (P.L. ) authorized the continued taking of fur seals and disposal of their skins by Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos, provided that the seals are taken for subsistence purposes as defined by the Marine Mammal Protection Act.*

Below are 10 interesting facts about the Galapagos fur seal: You can distinguish them easily. Once you learn about the Galapagos fur seal, you will be able to distinguish it from other similar marine mammals. This fur seal is the smallest of the pinniped order a group including seals, walruses and sea lions as well as the smallest of the otariidae eared seals family. Learn how you can see them for yourself on these tours: Other traits that set this seal apart from others is its little button-like nose, small, pointy muzzle and large eyes that can see good at night when searching for food. You can also tell the males from the females since the males are much larger than their counterparts, and they have a mane of longer hair that grows from their head down to their shoulders. On average, an adult male can measure up to 5 ft 1. A mature male is called a bull, while a mature female is called a cow, and a baby is called a pup. They were once hunted and killed for their furs. In the s, the Galapagos fur seal population was nearly wiped out by poachers hunting the seals for their furs. You might wonder why people would consider their fur so valuable. In , Ecuador declared most of the Galapagos archipelago a national park and instituted strict laws to protect wildlife on the islands. Since then, the fur seals have remained safe from poachers. They stay on the land more than any other seal. Galapagos fur seals spend more time on land than any other seals. They can dive to depths of about ft 30 m. When the hot sun heats up the rocky shore areas, Galapagos fur seals often seek the shade of caves and lava shelves instead of plunging into the water. Image copyright owner Dger. They feed at night. If you see a Galapagos fur seal on a day visit, it is most likely to be taking a nap on the rocks because it usually stays up several hours during the night hunting food near the water surface. These fur seals enjoy eating fish and mollusks such as squid, snails and mussels. They make strange noises when hunting for food. While Galapagos fur seals forage for their supper at night, they often make two notable sounds that are similar to a growl and a knock. They have good hearing and eyesight. Excellent hearing and eyesight combined with face whiskers help the Galapagos fur seal to locate food in murky waters. They have a lower reproductive rate than other seals. One reason for this is because gestation takes about 12 months, and only one pup is born at a time. Following birth, pups are not weaned until they are 2 to 3 years old. If a second pup is born before its older sibling is weaned, there is a chance it will either starve to death or be killed by the older sibling. Sadly, orphaned pups whose mothers either died or rejected them most often die because other nursing seals will not allow them to suckle with their own pups. Male Galapagos fur seals will starve themselves to defend their families. An adult male seal will establish his own territory consisting of several females. During the breeding season August-November , the male will refrain from entering the water for food for as long as he can so that he can remain on land and defend his territory from other adult males. They are an endangered species. Although the Galapagos fur seal population is estimated between 10, and 15,, the numbers are decreasing. Threats to the fur seal population include water pollution, damaging El Nino effects, natural predators such as feral dogs, sharks and killer whales, and ocean warming that reduces food sources. Your Turn And there you have it â€” 10 Galapagos fur seal facts. Have one to add? Have you seen one in person? Join me in the comments!

**Chapter 6 : Subantarctic Fur Seal**

*The Fur Seals And Fur-seal Islands Of The North Pacific Ocean: The History, Condition, And Needs Of The Herd Of Fur Seals Resorting To The Pribilof Islands, By D. S. Jordan And G. A. Clark [United States.*

Antarctic Fur Seal *Arctocephalus gazella* Length: Most of the population breeds on South Georgia but also on other sub-Antarctic islands. Krill, squid, fish, penguins. Antarctic Fur seals are usually brown in coloration with a slightly more light brown or grey tone in newly molted juveniles and females. They are in the family of Otariidae or Eared Seals and hence have visible ears. How do Antarctic Fur Seals feed? The deepest known dive of an Antarctic Fur Seal sits at metres, the longest dive lasting about 10 minutes. The average foraging dive lasts about 4 minutes at goes to a depth of about 30 metres. Are Antarctic Fur Seals social? Antarctic Fur Seals are generally a solo act outside of mating season although they can congregate in vast numbers on beaches near good feeding grounds in the autumn and early winter. How fast do Antarctic Fur Seals move? Antarctic Fur Seals can reach speeds of up to 20km per hour on land. They can reach higher speeds while swimming. What are Antarctic Fur Seal birthing rituals like? Breeding season begins in late October through December. Males will fight each other for the right to rule harems of up to 20 females the rare harem can go up to females. The fights can be extremely aggressive, and some encounters result in deaths. The females mate about a week after giving birth. The pups are nursed by their mothers for about 4 months. How long do Antarctic Fur Seals live? Antarctic Fur Seal Males tend to live about 15 years, while females live to about 25 years on average. How many Antarctic Fur Seals are there today? There are only very rough estimates of the Antarctic Fur Seal population due to the fact that they spend so much of their time out at sea. The best guesses place the population at somewhere over 2,, to 4,, Do Antarctic Fur Seals have any natural predators? Unlike some other species of Seals Antarctic Fur Seal have visible ears. It is the only Seal with visible ears that lives in the Antarctic. The area is rich in krill – a major source of nutrients for a wide array of marine life. Antarctic Fur Seals are one type of nine species of Fur Seals that exist worldwide. The near extinction of another animal – baleen whales – may be the main reason the diminutive Antarctic Fur Seal population bounced back, because there was a huge reduction in competition for krill. Now the species numbers in the hundreds of thousands if not millions during the breeding period. The expedition explores one of the last untamed areas on Earth – a land of ruggedly beautiful landscapes and amazingly varied wildlife.

**Chapter 7 : Northern fur seal - Wikipedia**

*The Galapagos fur seal's natural predators are killer whales and shark, but are also threatened by feral dogs living on the islands they inhabit. There is little interaction between humans and Galapagos fur seals, but in the early 20th century they were hunted for their fur.*

This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. The pelage is thick and luxuriant, with a dense underfur in a creamy color. The underfur is obscured by the longer guard hairs, although it is partially visible when the animals are wet. Features of both fore and hind flippers are unique and diagnostic of the species. Fur is absent on the top of the fore flippers and an abrupt "clean line" is seen across the wrist where the fur ends. The ear pinnae are long and conspicuous, and naked of dark fur at the tips in older animals. The mystacial vibrissae can be very long, and regularly extend beyond the ears. Adults have all white vibrissae, juveniles and subadults have a mixture of white and black vibrissae, including some that have dark bases and white ends, and pups and yearlings have all black vibrissae. The eyes are proportionately large and conspicuous, especially on females, subadults, and juveniles. Adult males are stocky in build, and have enlarged thick and wide necks. A mane of coarse, longer guard hairs extends from the lower neck to the shoulders. While the skulls of adult males are large and robust for their overall size, their heads appear short because of the combination of a short muzzle, and the backs of the head behind the ear pinnae being obscured by the enlarged necks. Adult males have abrupt foreheads formed by the elevation of the crown from development of the sagittal crests, and thicker fur of the mane on the top of their heads. Canine teeth are much longer and have a greater diameter in adult males than those found on adult females, and this relationship holds to a lesser extent at all ages. Fur seal pups, including one rare albino Adult females, subadults, and juveniles are moderate in build. Distinguishing the sexes is difficult until about age five. The body is modest in size and the neck, chest, and shoulders are sized in proportion with the torso. Adult females and subadults have more complex and variable coloration than adult males. They are dark silver-gray to charcoal above. The flanks, chest, sides, and underside of the neck, often forming a chevron pattern in this area, are cream to tan with rusty tones. Variable cream to rust-colored areas are on the sides and top of the muzzle, chin, and as a "brush stroke" running backwards under the eye. In contrast, adult males are medium gray to black, or reddish to dark brown all over. Their manes can have variable amounts of silver-gray or yellowish tinting on the guard hairs. Pups are blackish at birth, with variable oval areas of buff on the sides, in the axillary area, and on the chin and sides of the muzzle. After three to four months, pups molt to the color of adult females and subadults. Males can be as large as 2. Females can be up to 1. The teeth are haplodont , i. As with most caniforms, the upper canines are prominent. The dental formula of the adult is 3. Their hind limbs are in a plantigrade stance and are able to rotate under the body for quadrupedal locomotion and support. These seals swim primarily with forelimb propulsion due to their physiology. Another 60â€”70 thousand breed on the Commander Islands in the west Bering Sea, some , breed on Tyuleniy Island off the coast of Sakhalin in the southwest Sea of Okhotsk, and another 60â€”70 thousand in the central Kuril Islands in Russia. Ecology[ edit ] Fur seals are opportunistic feeders, primarily feeding on pelagic fish and squid depending on local availability. Identified fish prey include hake , herring , lantern fish , capelin , pollock , and mackerel. Northern fur seals are preyed upon primarily by sharks and killer whales. Due to very high densities of pups on reproductive rookeries and the early age at which mothers begin their foraging trips, mortality can be relatively high. Consequently, pup carcasses are important in enriching the diet of many scavengers, in particular gulls and Arctic foxes. Reproductive behavior[ edit ] Seals enter breeding rookeries in May. Generally, older males 10 years and older return first and compete for prime breeding spots on the rookeries. They remain on the rookery, fasting throughout the duration of the breeding season. Like all other otariids, northern fur seals are polygynous, with some males breeding with up to 50 females in a single breeding season. Unlike Steller sea lions, with which they share habitat and some breeding sites, northern fur seals are possessive of individual females in their harem , often aggressively competing with neighboring males for females. Northern fur seal pups After

remaining with their pups for the first eight to ten days of their lives, females begin foraging trips lasting up to a week. These trips last for about four months before weaning, which happens abruptly, typically in October. Most of the animals on a rookery enter the water and disperse towards the end of November, typically migrating southward. Breeding site fidelity is generally high for fur seal females, though young males might disperse to other existing rookeries, or occasionally find new haulouts. As with many other otariids, the fertilized egg undergoes delayed implantation: This has caused them to be listed as "vulnerable" under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and has led to an intensified research program into their behavioral and foraging ecology. Possible causes are increased predation by killer whales, competition with fisheries, and climate change effects, but to date, no scientific consensus has been reached. The IUCN lists the species as globally threatened under the category "vulnerable". Men killing fur seals on Saint Paul Island, Alaska, and Northern fur seals have been a staple food of native northeast Asian and Alaska Native peoples for thousands of years. The arrival of Europeans to Kamchatka and Alaska in the 17th and 18th centuries, first from Russia and later from North America, was followed by a highly extractive commercial fur trade. The commercial fur trade was accelerated in 1792, when Gavriil Pribylov discovered St. George Island, a key rookery of the seals. This trade led to a decline in fur seal numbers. Restrictions were first placed on fur seal harvest on the Pribilof Islands by the Russians in 1825. Treasury was authorized to lease sealing privileges on the Pribilofs, which were granted somewhat liberally to the Alaska Commercial Company. From 1847 to 1867, pelagic sealing proceeded to take a significant toll on the fur seal population, such that the Pribilof population, historically numbering on the order of millions of individuals, reached a low of 100,000 animals in 1867. The Convention of 1866 remained in force until the onset of hostilities among the signatories during World War II, and is also notable as the first international treaty to address the conservation of wildlife. Paul Island and an insignificant harvest in Russia are allowed.

### Chapter 8 : Galapagos Fur Seal - Sea Lion Facts and Information

*In recent years fur seal harvests on both islands have been lower than the allowable harvest levels NMFS is identifying here (1, to 2, fur seals for St. Paul Island and to fur seals for St. George Island).*

They are a dark brown to light gray color. You can tell the males and females apart as the males are much larger. **Distribution** These fur seals are only found on the Galapagos Islands, which is where their name stems from. **Behavior** You will find that the Galapagos Fur Seal is one species that spends more time on the land than any other. They prefer to lay on the rocks than on the sandy areas. It is believed that these rocks help them to cool down their body temperature while on the land. Research has shown that the Galapagos Fur Seal actually sweats if it gets too hot. It has to work very hard to cool its body temperature down. It is believed that the mothers teach this process to their pups at a very early age. This process is called Thermoregulation and it works by controlling the flow of blood to the flippers. More is sent to them when they are warm and it is pushed away when they are cold. Galapagos Fur Seal – Photo taken by D. The moon cycles seem to have a huge impact on their feeding habits as well. They tend to feed less during the full moon cycle. The males are extremely protective of their land territory though. They tend to consume fish that are very close to the shore lines. **Reproduction** The males are extremely dominant over their area when it comes to reproduction. They can have a group of females from a couple to more than fifteen. The males arrive at the breeding grounds first in order to take their place among the other males. Not all of them will get to mate, only the biggest and the strongest. When the females arrive they will give birth to the pups they are already carrying. After only a couple of days they begin to mate again. Instead what is known as delayed implantation occurs which means that it will take several months before the uterus attaches to it. This species of seal spends more time with the pups than any other. This is because they nurse for a longer period of time. They will leave the pup to go feed themselves and then come back while many others end up staying with their pup as long as they can and then going to eat. **Conservation** There are currently about 40, remaining Galapagos Fur Seals out there. Today is estimated to be around 15, of them. In the past there have been plenty of conservation efforts in place. Many of them involved eliminating the use of fishing nets in the areas where they live. That has helped to reduce accidental injury and death of this species of seal. The average life span of a Galapagos Fur Seal is about 22 years. Students and teachers are allowed to use this information for school projects and homework.

### Chapter 9 : Antarctic Fur Seal | Facts, pictures & more about Antarctic Fur Seal

*The northern fur seal (Callorhinus ursinus) is an eared seal found along the north Pacific Ocean, the Bering Sea, and the Sea of Okhotsk. It is the largest member of the fur seal subfamily (Arctocephalinae) and the only living species in the genus Callorhinus.*

Wandering individuals, mostly young males, have been sighted as far north as Brazil, Angola, the Juan Fernandez Islands and the Comoro Islands, while individuals are also occasionally seen in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. At least 80,000 pups are born annually, giving a world-wide population of between 100,000 and 150,000. Small-scale killing for fishing bait and skins took place at Gough Island until the 1960s. All of the colonies are now protected by legislation. There appear to be no major threats currently facing the species. Subantarctic fur seals on World Heritage listed Macquarie Island were afforded additional protection in 1997 by the creation of a new federal 16 million hectare Marine Park on the eastern side of the island. The Tasmanian government also announced in 2000 an extension to the Macquarie Island Nature Reserve to cover all Tasmanian waters out to three nautical miles surrounding the island. A recent genetic study was carried out to investigate the potential impacts of commercial sealing and range contractions on the genetic variation and population structure of Subantarctic fur seals. The study revealed that despite commercial sealing, high levels of genetic diversity and population structure are still present in the species. Three genetic lineages or clades are apparent, none of which represents fixed geographic distributions. However the seals from Gough, Prince Edward and Amsterdam Islands all differ significantly in the percentages of each clade represented in their populations. The recently established populations at The Crozet Islands and Macquarie Island are more similar genetically to each other than they are to any of the potential "source" populations. Results suggest that these populations were recolonised primarily by animals from the Prince Edward Islands and, to a lesser extent, Amsterdam Island. Simon Goldsworthy, Latrobe University Lifestyle The Subantarctic fur seal usually hauls out on rocky shores from November to January in order to breed. The adult males arrive at the breeding grounds just prior to the females and form territories, usually containing between 1 and 10 females. They defend these territories by means of fighting, vocalisation and bluff. The females usually arrive in November-December and their pup is born a few days later with a black coat. Mating takes place about a week after the birth and the female then begins a cycle of feeding at sea for approximately 5 days although foraging trips lasting a month have been reported and returning to nurse her pup on land for days. Recent research has revealed that lactating females on Amsterdam Island have one of the longest attendance cycles of the fur seal species, spending an average of 100 days at sea from summer to winter. The time that mothers from Amsterdam Island spend ashore nursing their pup is also long, up to 4 days, but remains constant throughout the year. Lactating female Subantarctic fur seals have been recorded foraging up to 100 km from their breeding islands, and appear to forage in association with oceanographic frontal zones where food availability is expected to be greater. Subantarctic fur seals also consume squid. The adult coat is typically characterised by a dark brown back and a creamy yellow chest. Adult males are usually darker than females and have a dark crest on the top of their head that stands erect when they are excited. Individuals of the species have a characteristic pale "facial mask" that distinguishes them from all other fur seals. Adults moult their coats between March and May. Subantarctic fur seal breeding colonies sometimes share space with Antarctic fur seals *Arctocephalus gazella* and there is evidence of some inter-breeding between these species at Marion and Macquarie Islands. Sharks and killer whales are known predators. Statistics Adult males usually measure up to 1.8m long and weigh 1000 kg. Pups are born about 65cm long and weighing 10 kg. Females reach sexual maturity at 5 years of age, males at 7 years, although males do not achieve territorial status until 10 years of age. Males of the species are known to live over 18 years, females over 23 years.