

Marine Mammal Species Codes and Status – for OWCN

Most commonly encountered marine mammal species, species status, and standardized codes. This table is certainly not exhaustive of all non-avian species encountered during a spill; for other species (e.g., porpoises, sea turtles) not listed, please fill out their full name to avoid confusion. You can also add the species to the list and develop a standardized code for use during the spill event, which can get added to a future version of the protocols as appropriate. The lowest taxonomic designation that can be made with certainty should be recorded, such as “PINNIPED”. Additionally, for individuals where all evidence points to it being of a given species or taxa, but some definitive criteria is missing b/c of condition of the bird so you can’t say this with 100% certainty, record the taxa as the likely 4-letter code followed by a question mark (e.g., “Ej?”); if likelihood is not high, simply classify as the next taxonomic level of which you are confident.

Species	Scientific Name	Code	Status ¹
California sea lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	Zc	No status
California sea otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	El	FT
Guadalupe fur seal	<i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>	At	FT, ST
Northern fur seal	<i>Callorhinus ursinus</i>	Cu	No status
Northern elephant seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>	Ma	No status
Harbor seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Pv	No status
Steller sea lion	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	Ej	FT

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¹Federal or state status as of November 2009 (check for updates at beginning of each spill); FE=Federally Endangered; FT=Federally Threatened; SE=State Endangered (CA); ST=State Threatened (CA); CA-BSSC=California Bird Species of Special Concern