

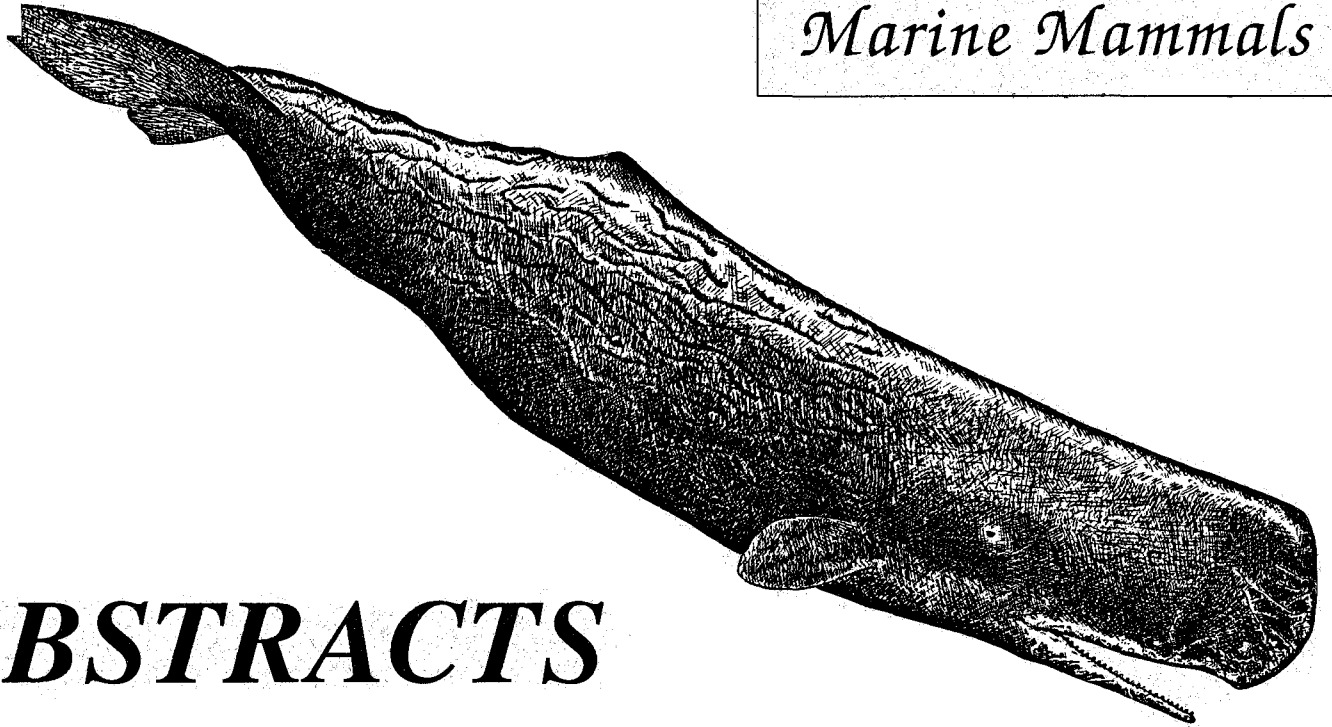
BACTERIAL AND CHLAMYDIAL CULTURE RESULTS FROM STELLER SEA LIONS FROM THE GULF OF ALASKA AND SOUTHEAST ALASKA
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During 1992 and 1993, bacterial and chlamydial cultures were taken from Steller Sea Lions from Alaska. The cultures were collected from aborted fetuses, live pups, and live, anesthetized adults. The sites cultured included lung, amniotic fluid, stomach, heart, liver, kidney, placenta, nares, eye, pharynx, mouth, vagina, and rectum. The cultures were plated onto TSA 5% Sheep blood agar; CNA 5% sheep blood agar, Macconkey agar, Brilliant Green agar and TCBS agar. A direct sample slide was prepared for gram stain. Chlamydial cultures were taken from eye, lung, vagina and rectal samples and cell cultured.

The gram positive organisms isolated included: *Staph sp.*, various *Strep sp.*, *Corynebacterium aquaticum*, *Micrococcus sp.*, *Bacillus sp.*, and *Listeria sp.* The gram negative organisms included: various *Pseudomonas sp.*, *Enterobacter sp.*, *Providencia/Morganella sp.*, *Kluyvera sp.*, *Edwardsiella tarda*, various *E. coli*, *Plesiomonas shigelloides*; *Proteus penneri* and *mirabilis*, *Hafnia alvei*, *Vibrio fulvialis*, and *Salmonella saint-paul*. The gram stains showed a gram negative cork screw shaped bacteria, probably a *Campylobacter* and a gram negative spiral bacteria, possibly a *Borrelia* type organism. Chlamydial cultures isolated *Chlamydia psittaci* from an aborted fetus.

Identification of normal bacterial flora and potential pathogens is important in understanding the effects of concurrent disease and environmental factors in the decline of the Steller Sea Lion populations.

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ABSTRACTS

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