

DISEASES FOUND IN STELLER SEA LIONS FROM THE GULF OF ALASKA
AND BERING SEA

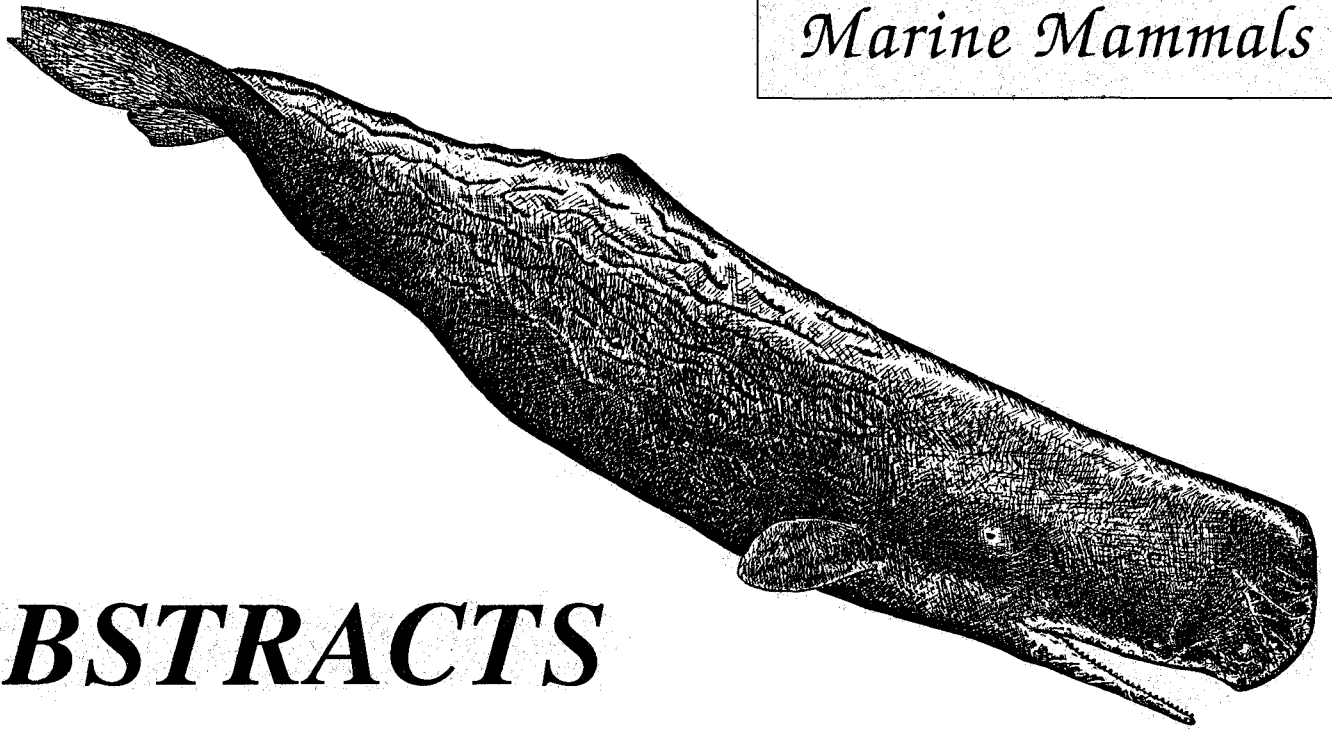
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For the last seven years investigations of the causes of
death and diseases of free-ranging Steller Sea Lions have
been done. Methods of investigation have been necropsy of
animals that were either found dead or collected. Procedures
performed on animals included gross necropsy, histopathology,
bacteriology and serology.

A subacute ulcerative dermatitis with alopecia, acanthosis
and keratosis due to calicivirus and lice was found in pups.
A chronic active dermatitis due to an unidentified mycotic
agent was common. A mild multifocal pneumonia associated with
lungworms and secondary bacterial infection was common. Mild
mucopurulent rhinitis associated with nasal mites was
extremely common. Gastric ulceration due to ascarids and
gastric foreign bodies was a common incidental finding.
Acanthocephalans and cestodes were found in the small
intestine and caecum. Positive serological titers to
chlamydia were found. A chlamydial organism was isolated from
an aborted fetus from Cape St. Elias, Alaska. Emaciation was
found in two 8-10 month old animals. A mild degree of
neuronal degeneration was found in the brain stem of two
adults. Gun shot was found in two adults.

A variety of diseases and infectious agents were found but
none appeared to be related with the general decline.
Abortion may be a significant factor in the decline of
Steller populations. The causative agents of abortion have
not been determined and further work needs to be done.

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ABSTRACTS

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