

***Session SSL-6: Steller Sea Lion Biology and Ecology***  
***Population Status and Dispersal***

**Status of the Eastern Steller Sea Lion Population**

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The eastern population of Steller sea lions is comprised of animals born on rookeries in Southeast Alaska, British Columbia, Oregon, and northern California. While the western U.S. population has declined by 80+% over the past 25 years, the eastern stock has increased substantially in Southeast Alaska, British Columbia, and Oregon. Major declines have occurred in California, particularly in the south, however there are indications of recovery at the far northern California sites. The total eastern population now numbers over 40,000 animals and comprises about 55% of the North American population whereas in the 1970s it made up only about 10% of the total. The three largest rookeries in North America; the Forrester Island complex, Hazy Islands, and the Scott Islands complex are all in the eastern population. Much of the increase that has been observed in the eastern stock is likely the result of limitations on directed take resulting from protective legislation in both Canada and the United States.

# MARINE SCIENCE

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## Abstracts



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