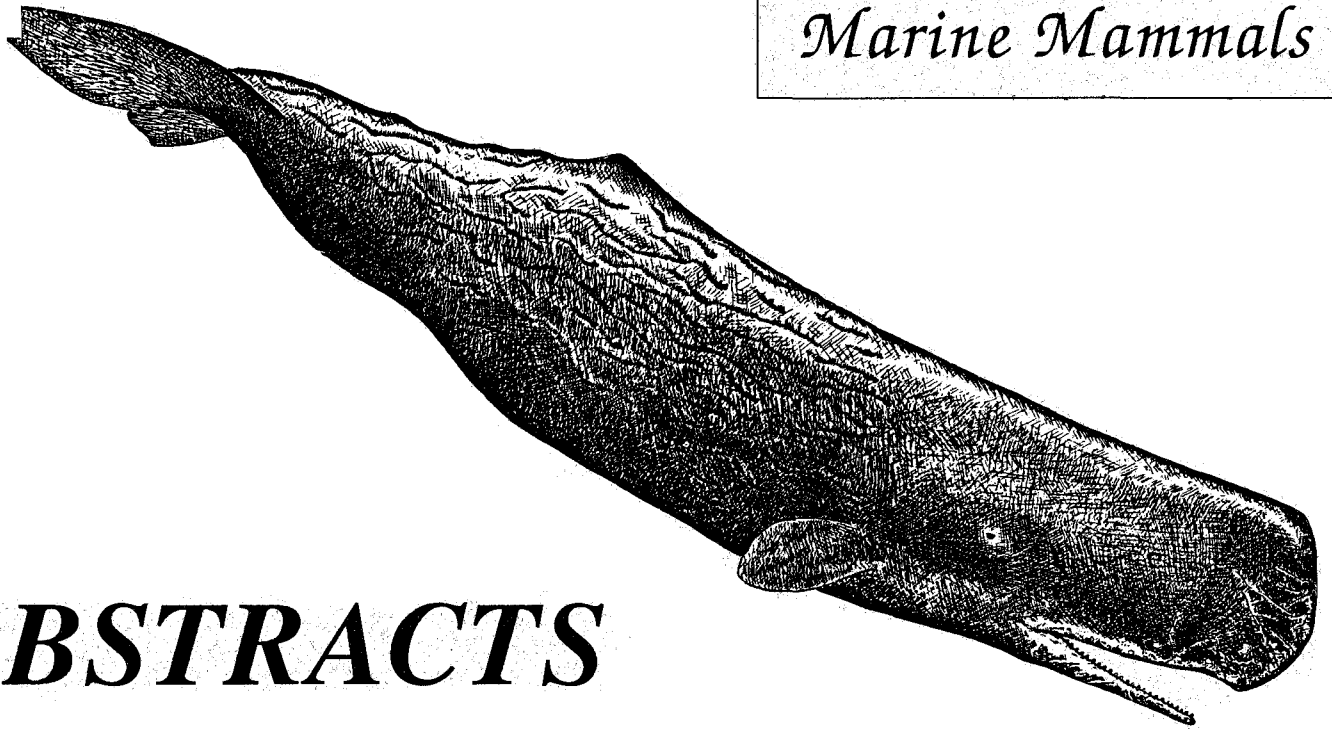


STELLER SEA LION POPULATION STATUS AND TRENDS
Loughlin, T.R.¹, R.L. Merrick¹, D.C. Calkins², and
J.L. Sease¹
¹National Marine Mammal Laboratory, National
Marine Fisheries Service, 7600 Sand Point Way NE,
Seattle, WA 98115; ²Alaska Department of Fish and
Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99502

A 1989 range-wide survey of Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) suggested that the world population was about 116,000, 39-48% less than during the 1960s. Recent aerial and ground surveys of adults, juveniles, and pups show that the population is continuing to decline in most of Alaska, but that populations in Oregon and British Columbia are unchanged. In Alaska, a total of 34,844 adult and juvenile sea lions were counted in 1992 at 95 trend sites, representing a decline of 70.2% from 1979 (116,804) and 4.4% from 1991 (36,459). Estimated annual rates of decline for 32 Alaskan rookeries were 10.2% ($P < 0.001$) for 1979-92 and 5.4% ($P = 0.06$) for 1989-92. Pup counts at 15 Alaskan rookeries declined at 8.2-10.7% yr^{-1} during 1990-93. One new and two old Alaskan rookeries were established during the 1990s. Counts at other eastern Pacific rookeries are similar to those reported in 1989. Data are unavailable for the western Pacific Ocean rookeries. A second range-wide survey is planned for 1994.

*Tenth Biennial
Conference on
the Biology of
Marine Mammals*



ABSTRACTS

**Galveston, Texas, U.S.A.
November 11-15, 1993**

**Hosted by
RICE UNIVERSITY
OF GALVESTON**



**Sponsored by
THE SOCIETY FOR MARINE MAMMALOGY**