

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS OF SAN MIGUEL
SEA LION VIRUS, LEPTOSPIROSIS, AND CHLAMYDIOSIS IN ALASKA
STELLER SEA LIONS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO DECLINING
PUP COUNTS.

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Steller sea lion (Eumetopias jubatus) pup numbers on major rookeries in Shelikof Strait, Alaska have declined by 26% since 1979. Samples for three disease agents known to cause reproductive problems in other species were taken during April and May of 1985. Seventy-five adult sea lions and 31 fetuses were collected. Specimens taken from adults were kidney, spleen, mesenteric lymph nodes, throat and rectal swabs and blood serum. San Miguel Sea Lion Virus (SMSV) serology showed 49% adults with positive titers to one or more serotypes and 21% fetal positive titers. Titers ranged from 1:16 to 1:320. No titers to Leptospira pomona antibody were detected. Chlamydial antibody produced 62% adult positives and no fetal positives. Titers ranged from 1:16 to 1:256. Results suggest there may be no Leptospiral involvement in the sea lion population sampled, while Chlamydial involvement may be significant. SMSV appears to be present to a significant degree in this population, although only 4% of the positive titers encountered were to serotypes known to cause reproductive problems in sea lions.

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