Seabirds on the CalCOFI/CCE-LTER Surveys, 2014 Annual Data Report

William J. Sydeman, Principle Investigator Dawn Breese, Sophie Webb, Observers Marcel Losekoot, Analyst



Farallon Institute for Advanced Ecosystem Research 101 H Street, Suite Q Petaluma, CA 94952 www.faralloninstitute.org

11 December 2014

Introduction

Seabird studies are now an integral part of the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigation (CalCOFI), California Current Ecosystem - Long-term Ecological Research (CCE-LTER), and Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) programs. The seabird data is valuable for several reasons. First, information on seabird distribution and abundance provides an upper trophic level perspective which complements the lower trophic level plankton and hydrographic data collected by others. Second, estimates of seabird abundance, diversity and distribution contribute to understanding the spatial ecology of the Southern California Bight, a region characterized by substantial habitat heterogeneity and major oceanographic and biogeographic boundaries associated with Point Conception. Third, by extending our existing records (now 27 years and building; 1987-present) and coupling this information with long-term hydrographic and plankton data, seabird data contributes to understanding the effects of natural climate variability and anthropogenic effects on the southern sector of the California Current ecosystem. Anthropogenic impacts include habitat changes due to global warming, coastal development, and contaminants as well as biotic changes due to fishing and other extractive uses of marine life in the region.

This data report summarizes observations made during 3 seasonal CalCOFI/CCE-LTER cruises (winter, spring, and fall 2014). Herein, we present basic data on survey effort as well as summary information on seabird distribution and abundance. A total of 39 days of survey effort, covering 3,354 km (1,006 km²) of ocean habitat is summarized.

These data are made available for use by the scientific and marine management and policy communities. These data should not to be used by for-profit consulting firms or in

litigation. We request that anyone planning to use these data contact the PI by email, <u>wsydeman@comcast.net</u>. Data quality is the responsibility of the data user, not the PI, Farallon Institute, CalCOFI/CCE-LTER or other project funders.

Methods

Observations of seabirds are made continuously during daylight ship transits between oceanographic and plankton sampling stations. The observer, located on the bridge approximately 15 meters above sea level, uses hand-held binoculars to assist in the identification and enumeration of birds. The observer records all birds seen within a 300 meter strip transect to one side and front of the vessel while the ship is underway at > 5 knots. Observations are entered into a portable computer using the dedicated application "Dlog"; the ship's position is automatically recorded every 10 seconds from an external GPS. Each observation includes the species, the number of individuals observed, and their behavior (mostly flying or sitting). At-sea observation data are post-processed using standardized species codes, validation of positioning data, and binning of observations into along-track sections of 3 km in length. The data are then integrated into a survey database which includes data from May 1987 to the present. This data is used to derive summary statistics.

This report summarizes observations for all seasonal surveys conducted in 2014 and is limited to the region covered by CalCOFI lines 76 to 93; the seabird species summarized are listed in Table 2. Taxa excluded from this summary include all mammals, fish, terrestrial birds and most shorebirds except phalaropes which are largely pelagic. Species density is calculated as the total number of individuals observed per species divided by the area (km²) surveyed. The overall distribution of seabirds is illustrated by plotting density at each bin's center position. The density is represented by a circle whose diameter is scaled using the Jenks method in ArcGIS version 9.3.

Results

A summary of survey effort is shown in Table 1. Seasonal and overall transects surveyed are shown in Figure 1-4. A summary of species observations is shown in Table 2. Distribution maps for overall seabird density (all species) are shown in Appendix 1 (Figures 5-12). A detailed species list is provided in Appendix 2.

Table 1. Summary of survey effort and seabird statistics, 2014 and 2013

Annual Survey 2014	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Fall</u>	Total
Survey Vessel	BM Shimada	Ocean Starr	New Horizon	-
Start Date	1/29/2014	3/28/2014	11/8/2014	-
End Date	2/4/2014	4/16/2014	11/22/2014	-
Number Survey Days	7	17	15	39
Distance Surveyed (km)	609	1345	1400	3354
Area Surveyed (km ²)	183	404	420	1006
Number of Bird Species	25	34	45	49
Overall Bird Density (per km ²)	8.02	10.63	6.34	8.39
Total Individuals Counted	1466	4290	2688	8444
Annual Survey 2013	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>	Total
Survey Vessel	BM Shimada	BM Shimada	New Horizon	-
Start Date	1/11/2013	4/6/2013	7/6/2013	-
End Date	1/25/2013	4/27/2013	7/21/2013	-
Number Survey Days	14	15	16	45
Distance Surveyed (km)	1149	1085	1525	3759
Area Surveyed (km ²)	345	326	457	1128
Number of Bird Species	29	38	20	46
	- 44	7.95	2.43	4.93
Overall Bird Density (per km ²)	5.41	7.95	2.45	4.95

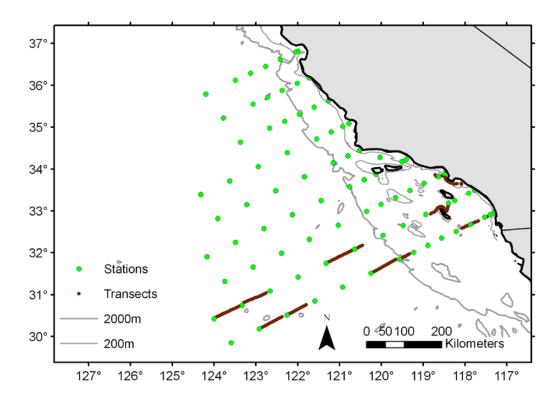


Figure 1. CalCOFI/CCE-LTER hydrographic and plankton sampling stations (green). 2014 transects, winter survey.

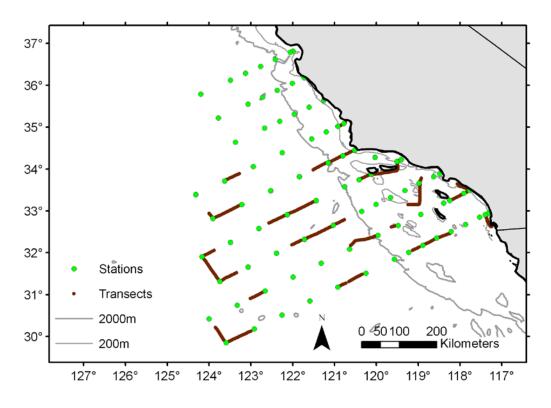
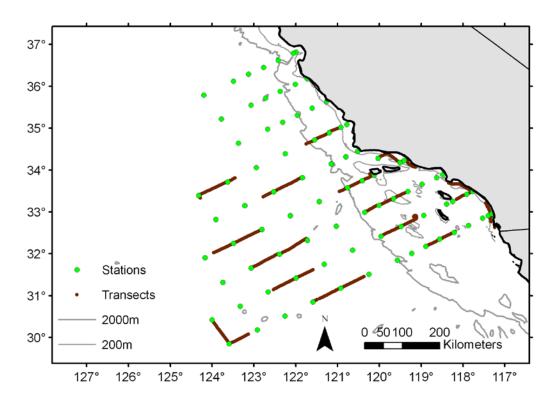
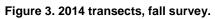


Figure 2. 2014 transects, spring survey.





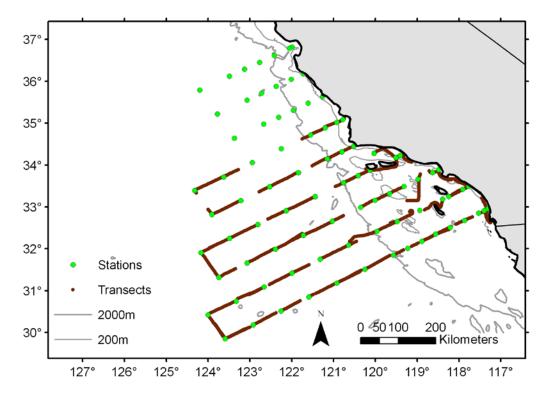


Figure 4. 2014 transects, all seasons.

Table 2. 2014 observations by season and species. Cell values represent: the total number of individuals (ind.) / the number of observations per species (obs.) / species density (dens.) in individuals per km².

		Winter	Spring	Fall
Common Name	Latin Name	(ind. / obs. / dens.)	(ind. / obs. / dens.)	(ind. / obs. / dens.)
American White Pelican	Pelecanus erythrorhynchos			
Ancient Murrelet	Synthliboramphus antiquus			
Arctic Loon	Gavia arctica			
Arctic Tern	Sterna paradisaea			
Ashy Storm-Petrel	Oceanodroma homochroa			10 / 1 / 0.02
Black Scoter	Melanitta nigra			
Black Storm-Petrel	Oceanodroma melania			
Black-Footed Albatross	Phoebastria nigripes	5 / 5 / 0.03	11 / 11 / 0.03	3 / 3 / 0.01
Black-Legged Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla			
Black-Vented Shearwater	Puffinus opisthomelas	640 / 80 / 3.5	18 / 7 / 0.04	513 / 157 / 1.22
Bonaparte's Gull	Larus philadelphia	530 / 16 / 2.9	2257 / 19 / 5.59	187 / 25 / 0.45
Brandt's Cormorant	Phalacrocorax penicillatus	11 / 11 / 0.06	78 / 26 / 0.19	109 / 65 / 0.26
Brant	Branta bernicla		65 / 1 / 0.16	
Brown Booby	Sula leucogaster			1/1/0
Brown Noddy	Anous stolidus			
Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis	8 / 3 / 0.04	63 / 27 / 0.16	74 / 31 / 0.18
Buller's Shearwater	Puffinus bulleri			1/1/0
California Gull	Larus californicus	20/8/0.11	11 / 10 / 0.03	97 / 70 / 0.23
Caspian Tern	Sterna caspia			
Cassin's Auklet	Ptychoramphus aleuticus	10 / 4 / 0.05	3 / 2 / 0.01	539 / 279 / 1.28
Clark's Grebe	Aechmophorus clarkii			3 / 3 / 0.01
Common Loon	Gavia immer		18 / 3 / 0.04	5 / 5 / 0.01

Common Murre	Uria aalge	11/4/0.06	1/1/0	9/9/0.02
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo			
Cook's Petrel	Pterodroma cookii	7 / 6 / 0.04	136 / 95 / 0.34	1/1/0
Craveri's Murrelet	Synthliboramphus craveri			
Dark Shearwater	(species group)			1/1/0
Dark-Rumped Petrel	Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis			
Double-Crested Cormorant	Phalacrocorax auritus	2/2/0.01	10 / 7 / 0.02	2/2/0
Eared Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis		2/1/0	2/2/0
Elegant Tern	Sterna elegans	3 / 3 / 0.02	202 / 79 / 0.5	5 / 5 / 0.01
Flesh-Footed Shearwater	Puffinus carneipes			
Fork-Tailed Storm-Petrel	Oceanodroma furcata			
Forster's Tern	Sterna forsteri			
Franklin's Gull	Larus pipixcan			
Glaucous Gull	Larus hyperboreus			
Glaucous-Winged Gull	Larus glaucescens			4/4/0.01
Guadalupe Murrelet	Synthliboramphus hypoleucus			7 / 4 / 0.02
Hawaiian Petrel	Pterodroma sandwichensis			
Heermann's Gull	Larus heermanni	2/2/0.01	7 / 7 / 0.02	26 / 25 / 0.06
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus			9 / 8 / 0.02
Horned Puffin	Fratercula corniculata			
Hybrid Gull	(species group)			1/1/0
Juan Fernandez Petrel	Pterodroma externa			
Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus			
Kermadec Petrel	Pterodroma neglecta			
Laughing Gull	Larus atricilla			

Laysan Albatross	Phoebastria immutabilis	2 / 2 / 0.01	6 / 6 / 0.01	1/1/0
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Oceanodroma leucorhoa	29 / 20 / 0.16	88 / 65 / 0.22	230 / 149 / 0.55
Least Storm-Petrel	Oceanodroma microsoma			
Least Tern	Sterna antillarum			
Long-Tailed Jaeger	Stercorarius longicaudus			
Marbled Murrelet	Brachyramphus marmoratus			
Mew Gull	Larus canus			
Mottled Petrel	Pterodroma inexpectata			
Murphy's Petrel	Pterodroma ultima		1/1/0	
Northern Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialis	21/21/0.11	33 / 29 / 0.08	65 / 59 / 0.15
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus			
Pacific Loon	Gavia pacifica	5 / 3 / 0.03	43 / 29 / 0.11	8 / 5 / 0.02
Parakeet Auklet	Aethia psittacula			
Parasitic Jaeger	Stercorarius parasiticus		2/2/0	2/2/0
Parkinson's Petrel	Procellaria parkinsoni			
Pelagic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax pelagicus		8 / 5 / 0.02	1/1/0
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus			
Pigeon Guillemot	Cepphus columba		1/1/0	
Pink-Footed Shearwater	Puffinus creatopus	7 / 7 / 0.04	179 / 25 / 0.44	8 / 8 / 0.02
Pomarine Jaeger	Stercorarius pomarinus	1/1/0.01	2/2/0	26 / 21 / 0.06
Red Phalarope	Phalaropus fulicaria	2/2/0.01	54 / 20 / 0.13	290 / 126 / 0.69
Red-Billed Tropicbird	Phaethon aethereus	2/2/0.01	3/3/0.01	1/1/0
Red-Footed Booby	Sula sula			
Red-Necked Grebe	Podiceps grisegena			
Red-Necked Phalarope	Phalaropus lobatus	3 / 2 / 0.02	65 / 10 / 0.16	3/3/0.01
Red-Tailed Tropicbird	Pheathon rubricauda			2/2/0

Red-Throated Loon	Gavia stellata			3/3/0.01
Rhinoceros Auklet	Cerorhinca monocerata			
Ring-Billed Gull	Larus delawarensis	55 / 23 / 0.3		
Royal Tern	Sterna maxima			
Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres			
Sabine's Gull	Larus sabini	1/1/0.01	5 / 3 / 0.01	
Scripps's Murrelet	Synthliboramphus scrippsii	2/1/0.01	9 / 4 / 0.02	
Short-Tailed / Slender-Billed Shearwater	Puffinus tenuirostris			2/2/0
Short-Tailed Albatross	Phoebastria albatrus			
Solander's Petrel	Pterodroma solandri			
Sooty Shearwater	Puffinus griseus		607 / 104 / 1.5	29 / 27 / 0.07
South Polar Skua	Stercorarius maccormicki		1/1/0	
Stejneger's Petrel	Pterodroma longirostris			
Surf Scoter	Melanitta perspicillata		3 / 1 / 0.01	4 / 2 / 0.01
Thayer's Gull	Larus thayeri			1/1/0
Tufted Puffin	Fratercula cirrhata			
Unidentified Albatross	(species group)			
Unidentified Auklet	(species group)			
Unidentified Cormorant	(species group)			
Unidentified Duck	(species group)			
Unidentified Grebe	(species group)			
Unidentified Gull	(species group)			4/4/0.01
Unidentified Jaeger	(species group)			
Unidentified Large Alcid	(species group)			
Unidentified Loon	(species group)			

Unidentified Murre	(species group)			1/1/0
Unidentified Petrel	(species group)			
Unidentified Phalarope	(species group)			57 / 10 / 0.14
Unidentified Procellarid	(species group)			
Unidentified Shearwater	(species group)			
Unidentified Skua	(species group)			
Unidentified Small Alcid	(species group)			
Unidentified Storm-Petrel	(species group)			
Unidentified Tern	(species group)			
Unidentified Tropicbird	(species group)			
Wedge-Rumped Storm-Petrel	Oceanodroma tethys			
Wedge-Tailed Shearwater	Puffinus pacificus			
Western Grebe	Aechmophorus occidentalis			90 / 27 / 0.21
Western Gull	Larus occidentalis	87 / 71 / 0.48	298 / 245 / 0.74	251 / 161 / 0.6
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Oceanites oceanicus			
Xantus / Craveri's Murrelet	(species group)			

Appendix 1. Overall seabird distribution maps by season for 2014 and 2013.

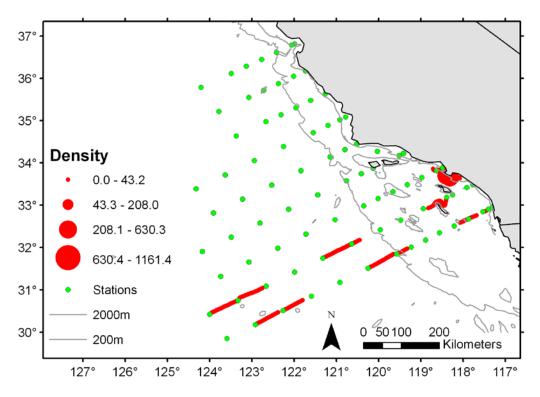


Figure 5. Spatial distribution of all seabird species, winter 2014.

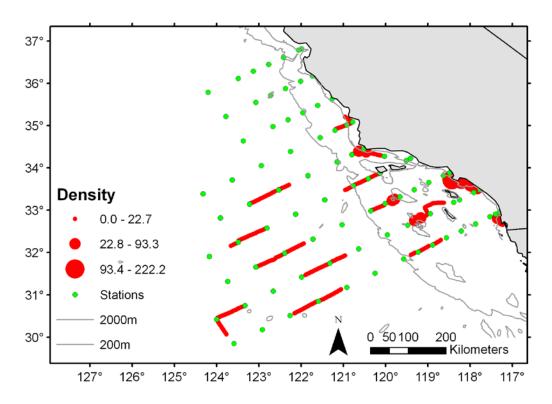


Figure 6. Spatial distribution of all seabird species, winter 2013. Note the difference in scale with 2014.

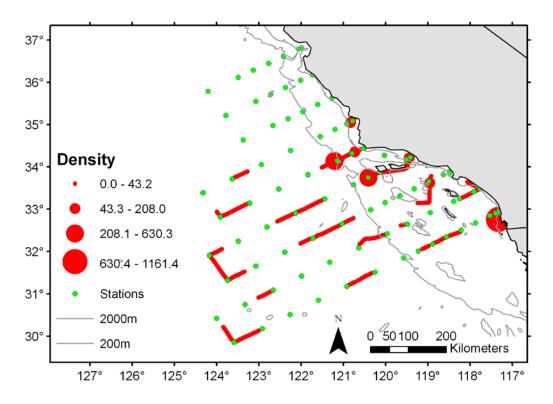


Figure 7. Spatial distribution of all seabird species, spring 2014.

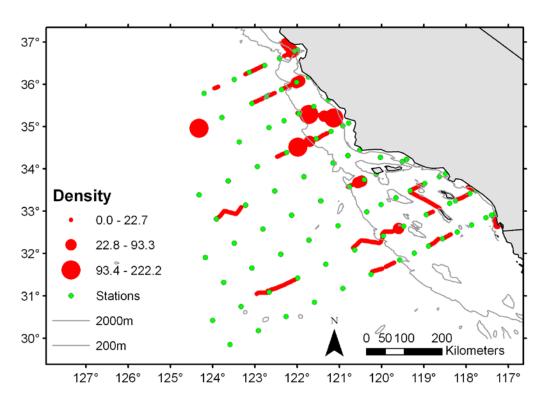


Figure 8. Spatial distribution of all seabird species, spring 2013. Note the difference in scale with 2014.

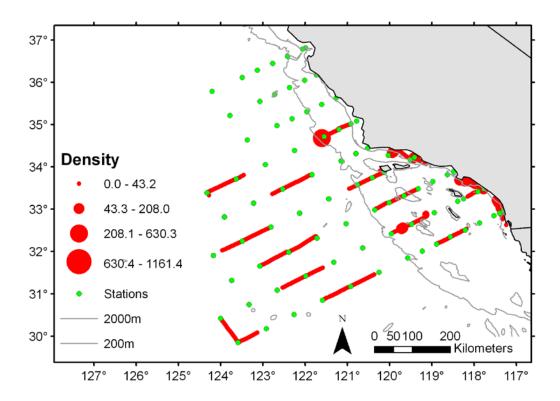


Figure 9. Spatial distribution of all seabird species, fall 2014. Note that there was no fall survey for 2013.

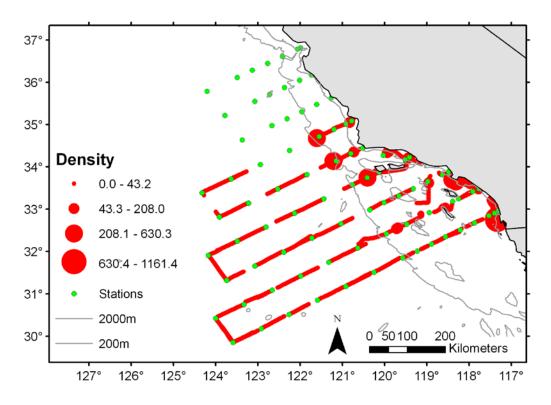


Figure 10. Spatial distribution of all seabird species across all seasons, 2014.

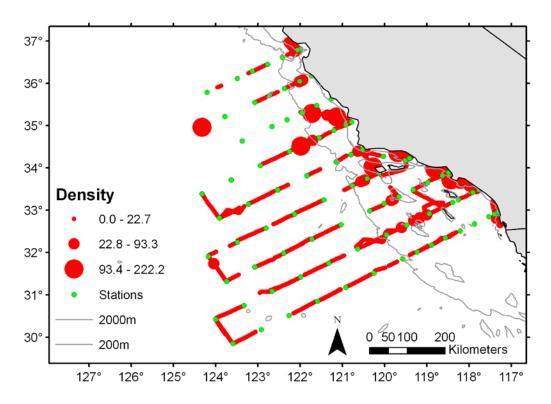


Figure 11. Spatial distribution of all seabird species across all seasons, 2013. Note the difference in scale with 2014.

Appendix 2.Species Lists

Data selection criteria

The following criteria were applied to the survey database to select data for the summary.

Behavior codes included	All values
Species categories included	Birds, Unidentified
Species categories excluded	Mammals, Fish, Excluded Species List
Years	2014
Months	All months
Bin length	All bins > 0.1km
Region	Lines 76 to 93
Seasons	All seasons

Excluded Species List

The following species were excluded from this analysis.

Common Name	Latin Name
American Coot	Fulica americana
Black Oystercatcher	Haematopus bachmani
Black Skimmer	Rynchops niger
Black Tern	Chlidonias niger
Black Turnstone	Arenaria melanocephala
Brewer's Sparrow	Spizella breweri
Bufflehead	Bucephala albeola
European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Green Heron	Butorides virescens
Least Sandpiper	Calidris minutilla
Long-billed Curlew	Numenius americanus
Long-billed Dowitcher	Limnodromus scolopaceus
Mallard Duck	Anas platyrhynchos
Marbled Godwit	Limosa fedoa
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura
Red-Breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator
Ruddy Duck	Oxyura jamaicensis
Sanderling	Calidris alba
Snow Goose	Chen caerulescens
Snowy Egret	Egretta thula
Unidentified Bird	(species group)
Unidentified Dowitcher	(species group)
Unidentified Goose	(species group)
Unidentified Hummingbird	(species group)
Unidentified Passerine	(species group)
Unidentified Shorebird	(species group)
Western Sandpiper	Calidris mauri

Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus
White-Winged Scoter	Melanitta fusca
Willet	Catoptrophorus semipalmatus
Yellow-Rumped Warbler	Dendroica coronata
Baird's Beaked Whale	Berardius bairdii
Blue Shark	Prionace glauca
Blue Whale	Balaenoptera musculus
Bottlenose Dolphin	Tursiops truncatus
California Sea Lion	Zalophus californianus
Common Dolphin	Delphinus delphis
Cuvier's Beaked Whale	Ziphius cavirostris
Dall's Porpoise	Phocoenoides dalli
False Killer Whale	Pseudorca crassidens
Fin Whale	Balaenoptera physalus
Gray Whale	Eschrichtius robustus
Green Sea Turtle	Chelonia mydas
Guadelupe Fur Seal	Arctocephalus townsendi
Hammerhead Shark	Sphyrna spp.
Harbor Porpoise	Phocoena phocoena
Harbor Seal	Phoca vitulina
Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Eretmochelys imbricata
Humpback Whale	Megaptera novaeangliae
Killer Whale	Orcinus orca
Leatherback Turtle	Dermochelys coriacea
Long-beaked Common Dolphin	Delphinus capensis
Mako Shark	Isurus oxyrinchus
Minke Whale	Balaenoptera acutorostrata
Mola Mola	Mola mola
Northern Elephant Seal	Mirounga angustirostris
Northern Fur Seal	Callorhinus ursinus
Northern Right Whale Dolphin	Lissodelphis borealis
Pacific White-Sided Dolphin	Lagenorhynchus obliquidens
Pilot Whale	Globicephala spp.
Pygmy Sperm Whale	Kogia breviceps
Ridley Sea Turtle	Lepidochelys olivacea
Risso's Dolphin	Grampus griseus
Sea Otter	Enhydra lutris
Sei Whale	Balaenoptera borealis
Short-Beaked Common Dolphin	Delphinus delphis
Short-Finned Pilot Whale	Globicephala macrorhynchus
Sperm Whale	Physeter macrocephalus
Steller Sea Lion	Eumetopias jubatus
Striped Dolphin	Stenella coeruleoalba
Unidentified Balaenoptera	(species group)
Unidentified Beaked Whale	(species group)

Unidentified Cetacean	(species group)
Unidentified Dolphin	(species group)
Unidentified Large Whale	(species group)
Unidentified Mammal	(species group)
Unidentified Pinniped	(species group)
Unidentified Sea Lion	(species group)
Unidentified Seal	(species group)
Unidentified Shark	(species group)
Unidentified Turtle	(species group)
Unidentified Whale	(species group)

Included Species List

For a list of species included in the analysis, please refer to Table 2.