

## Guide to Identification of Pinniped Skulls of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary



#### **California Sea Lion (CSLI)**



**Skull**: Strong sexual dimorphism; triangular postorbital processes; wide intraorbital region; adult male has pronounced sagittal crest



**Skull**: Minimal sexual dimorphism; no postorbital processes; narrow intraorbital region; large auditory bullae (on ventral side, not shown in photo)



**Skull**: Strong sexual dimorphism; no postorbital processes, large nasal shelf



Scapula: Large with two ridges





Scapula: Comma-shaped with a single ridge



Scapula: Large, fan-shaped with a single ridge



**Teeth**: Unicuspid post canines with strong cingulum often bearing accessory cusplets; upper postcanines generally uniformly spaced; third upper incisor enlarged



**Teeth**: Postcanine teeth usually bearing at least 3 cusps (mountainous); upper incisors of uniform size



**Teeth**: Very large canines, postcanines reduced and peglike, lacking cusps; total of 2 lower incisors





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#### **Steller Sea Lion (SSLI)**

#### Northern Fur Seal (NOFS)

### **Guadalupe Fur Seal (GUFS)**



Skull: Strong sexual dimorphism; adult male has no obvious sagittal crest; square or rectangular postorbital processes; wide intraorbital region





Scapula: Very large with two ridges



Skull: Obvious sexual dimorphism; postorbital processes point back; greatest width across nasals almost equaling their length (snout short)



Scapula: Small with two ridges





**Skull**: Strong sexual dimorphism (no male pictured);

postorbital processes point outwards; greatest width



Teeth: Large canines; unicuspid postcanines, no cusplets; wide gap separating last upper postcanine from its predecessor in adults; third upper incisor enlarged



Teeth: Large canines; unicuspid postcanines with possible minor cusplets; third upper incisor enlarged



