



Central Puget Sound Marine Mammal Stranding Network

THE STORY OF ELLISON

Issue #2



Hello All: This is the second in a series of newsletters about our Whidbey Island born elephant seal family of four. Issue #1 was a general history of Northern Elephant Seals (NES).

Issue #2—The Story of Ellison, born March 18, 2015

Ellison was the first elephant seal to be born on Whidbey Island.

The date was March 18, 2015. His mother is named Ellie and he was named Ellison in keeping with identifying these special seals as elephant seals to distinguish them from our ubiquitous harbor seals.

Ellie nursed him until April 8 (that's 3 weeks) when she went back to sea. By this time Ellison was so plumped up by mother's milk containing 50% fat that he looked like the below photos.



Ellison spent the next few weeks learning how to become an excellent swimmer and find prey. He also shed his black baby coat and morphed into the elongated elephant seal shape with a shiny new silvery coat. See the handsome young boy in the photos below..

He left Whidbey on May 20, 2015 and was spotted on Baby Island 8 months later in late November.



ELLISON IS A BIG BOY NOW AND DANGEROUS



Ellison is 5 years old and is now sexually mature with an increasing testosterone level. He is approximately 12-13 feet long weighing about 3500 lbs.

He is a wild animal and totally unpredictable, so stay away and stay safe.



Ellison has been documented killing at least 2 harbor seals in an attempt to mate with them.

All marine mammals are protected under the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 USC 1361-1407). Harassing these animals in any way that disturbs their natural behavior could face civil penalties of up to \$11,000 in fines and possibly one year in prison.

STAY 100 YARDS AWAY

We welcome your comments and questions. Please share this information.

Report any violations to one of the numbers below.

Thanks and enjoy... and please share your knowledge.



Orca Network: 1-866-ORCANET (1-866-672-2638)

NOAA Enforcement Hotline—1-800-853-1964

Sandy Dubpernell, Investigator/Archivist for CPSMMSN
dubpernell@yahoo.com - 360-678-3765

Garry Heinrich, Investigator, Volunteer Coordinator for CPSMMSN
ghretired10@gmail.com - 1-949-233-2822

Jill Hein, Investigator, Editor, Photographer for CPSMMSN
jillhein@comcast.net—1-425-444-1263



All mature Ellison photos provided by Florian Graner—thank you!