Pinniped Anatomy

General

Northern Elephant Seal
*Mirounga angustirostris*
- Dark silver-brown skin
- Rear flippers triangular-shaped
- Front flippers are dexterous and have 5 fingers, each with a small claw
- Large nose (adult male only)
- Belly is slightly paler than the back

Harbor Seal
*Phoca vitulina*
- Thick neck
- Closable ears with no external flap
- Thick eyes
- Dark eyes
- Pointed teeth in front of mouth
- Sensory whiskers, vibrissae
- Hairy foreflippers with five blunt claws
- Closable nostrils
- Wide hindflippers

Sea Lion
*Zalophus californianus*
- Thick, short fur is dark brown to buff-colored
- Dark eyes
- Closable nostrils
- Pointed snout
- Sensory whiskers, vibrissae
- Babies are dark gray to light brown
- Wing-like foreflipper

Common southern California pinnipeds