

WHO ARE THE PINNIPEDS?

They are found at every latitude, from the Arctic to the Antarctic, but no pinniped has a worldwide distribution. They can be found along almost every coastline on earth, and they are as comfortable on the shore as they are in the depths.

They are more commonly known as seals, sea lions, and walrus. It's difficult to make sweeping generalization about pinnipeds. Each species is unique. Even within one genus there is considerable variety in physical appearance, natural history, and behavior.



SEA LION & FUR SEAL

Family Otariidae

Includes five species of sea lions and nine species of fur seals. Called "eared seals" because of their visible, external ear flaps.

- *pronounced differences between males and females (males are usually larger and may have thick manes around their necks).*
- *Somewhat elongated muzzle.*
- *Smooth vibrissae.*
- *Double layer of fur composed of underfur and guard hairs.*
- *Four mammary teats.*



SEAL

Family Phocidae

There are 18 living species of Phocids. They differ from otariids by lacking external ear flap and having short, hair-covered flippers.

- *Variable degrees of difference between males and females (in some species, females are larger).*
- *Short muzzle.*
- *Beaded vibrissae.*
- *Short fur.*
- *Generally two mammary teats.*



WALRUS

Family Odobenidae

Is represented by just one species—the walrus. Walruses combine features of both otariids and phocids.

- *Moderately long foreflippers that can support the upper body.*
- *Long neck*
- *Four mammary teats.*
- *Lack ear pinnae.*
- *Tusks.*
- *Many more vibrissae than other pinnipeds.*

