



**The Marine Mammal Care Center rescues more marine mammals per mile of coastline than any other organization in the United States.**

**NOVEMBER 2023**

# A little about about us:

- Established in 1992 with our hospital and visitor center in San Pedro, CA
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with 20 staff members and 200 volunteers
- MMCC is the only organization authorized by the NOAA to respond to marine mammals in distress along the entire Los Angeles County coastline
- Annual operating budget in 2024 of \$2.6M
- Private philanthropy accounts for 90% of revenue in past years





**2023 Marks Milestone of Over  
10,000 Patients Treated**

# Our Work:

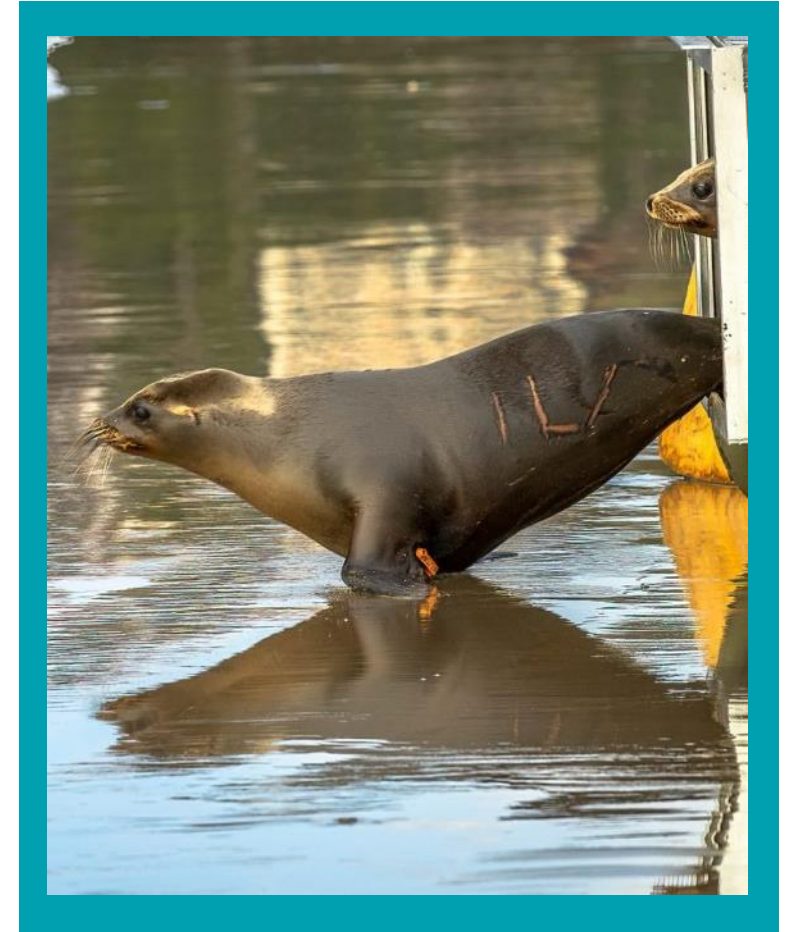
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**Animal Care and Rescue**

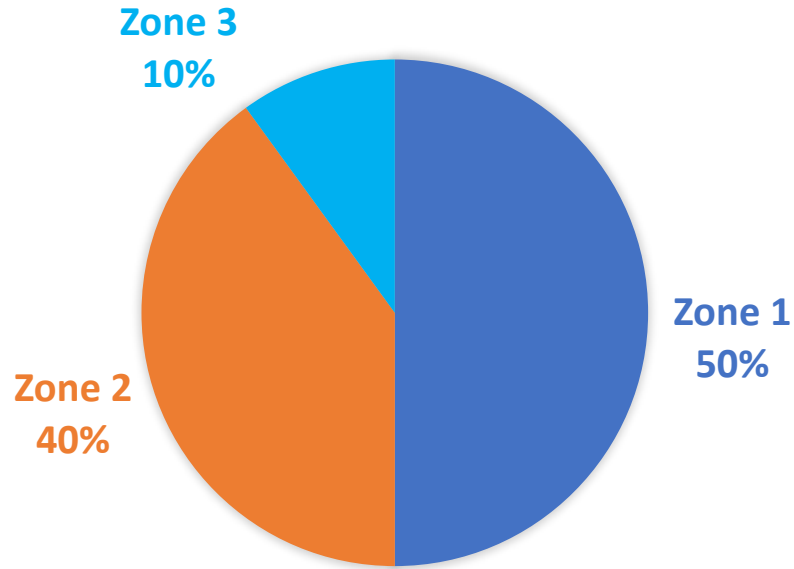


**Education**



**Research**

## % OF ANNUAL RESCUES



**Zone 1:** Malibu to LAX

**Zone 2:** El Segundo to Long Beach

**Zone 3:** Long Beach & Catalina

# 250 – 500

Animal rescues  
annually

# 2,500+ Calls

from members of the  
public reporting  
animals in distress  
along Los Angeles  
County beaches

“

*THE MARINE MAMMAL CARE CENTER IS A CRITICAL PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNER. THEY HELP OUR STRANDED MARINE LIFE SO WE CAN FOCUS ON KEEPING OUR BEACHGOERS SAFE.*

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*Carol Baker, Deputy Director,  
Dept. of Beaches and Harbors*

# Equipment for Rescue

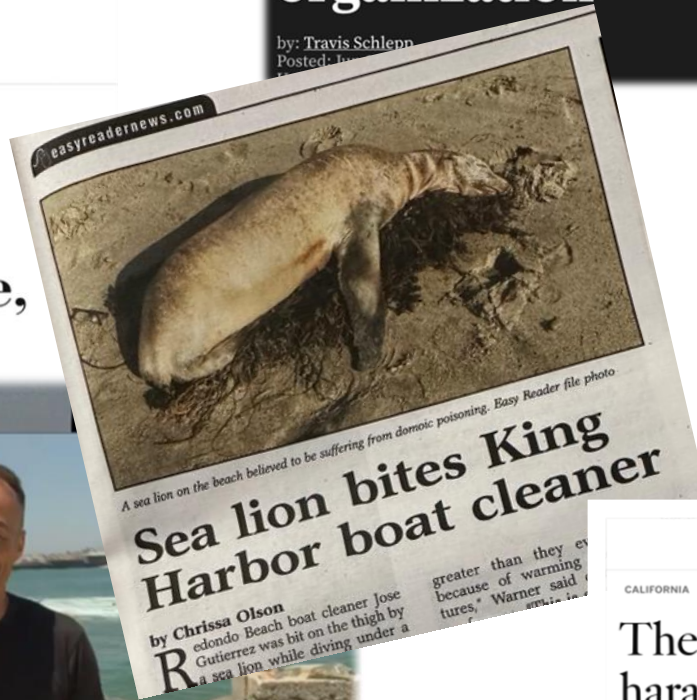


# More In the news:

The Washington Post

MORNING MIX

Sea lions are biting people. They're sick from toxic algae, officials say.



CALIFORNIA

## Sick sea lions, dolphins overwhelming Southern California rescue organization

by: Travis Schlepp  
Posted: [unclear]



Los Angeles Times

These are the 'hot spots' in California for seal, sea lion harassment

Smithsonian  
MAGAZINE

## Algae Is Making Sea Lions More Aggressive in California

A toxin present in algal blooms is moving through the food chain, leading to the deaths of sea lions and dolphins

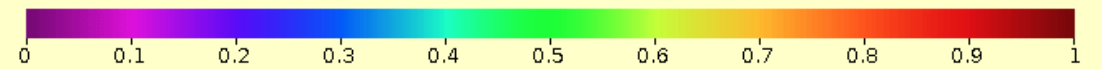
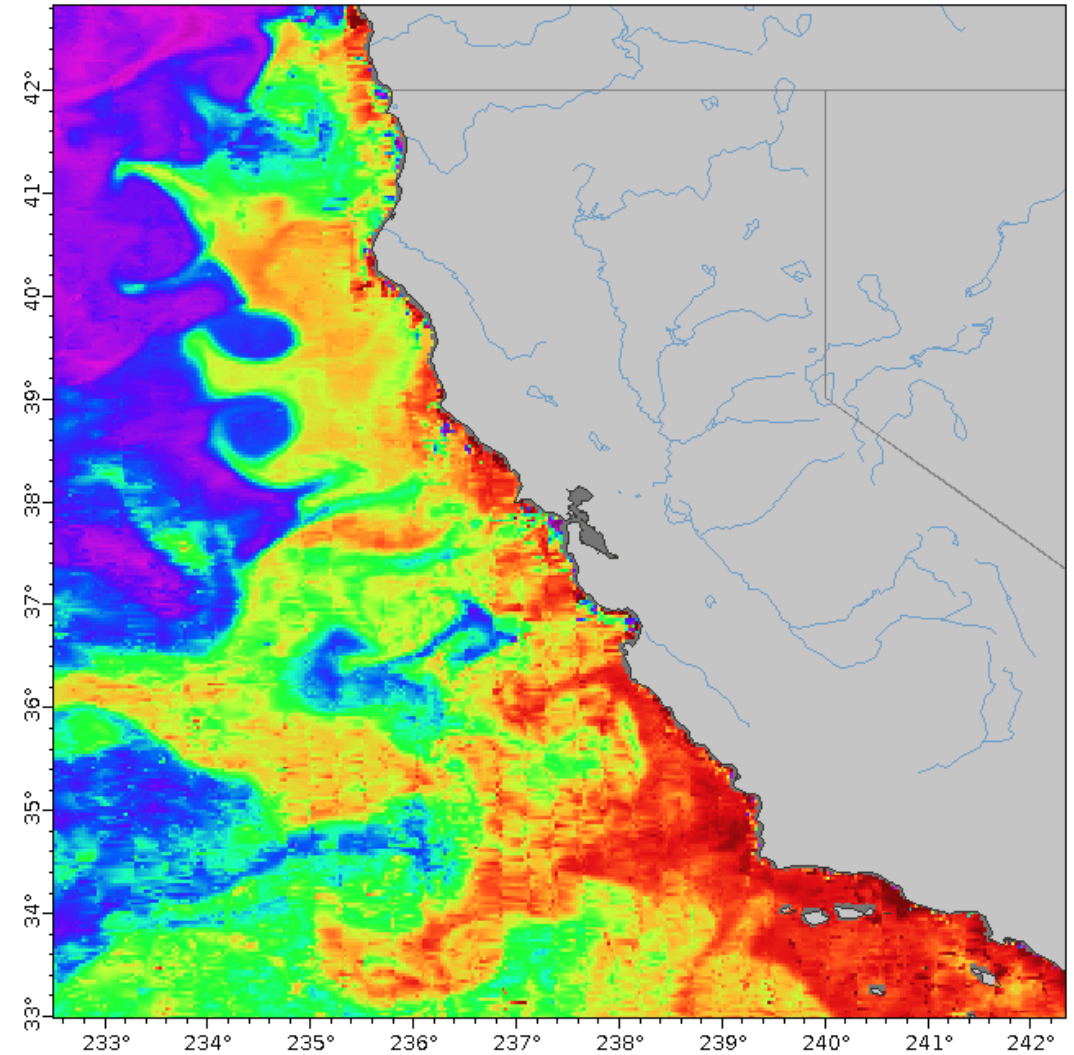
A CNN news broadcast still. On the left is a female anchor. On the right is a male reporter standing on a beach. The text "SEA" SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING THE LEAD is at the top. The main headline is "L.A. OFFICIALS SOUNDING ALARM OVER POISONED SEA LIONS". At the bottom, it says "TONIGHT 7P ET 2:06:44" and "THE FOURTH PLAIN WHITE T'S IN AMERICA". The CNN LIVE logo is in the bottom right corner.

# Toxic Algae Bloom Event in Summer of 2023



Sea lions with symptoms of domoic acid poisoning nearby a dead dolphin.

Photo credit: Staci Kaye-Carr



**Probability of Particulate Domoic Acid > 500 nanograms/L (1)**  
C-HARM v3.1 3-Day Forecast, Pseudo-nitzschia, cellular domoic acid, and particulate domoic acid probability, California and Southern Oregon coast, 2022-present (2023-06-17T12:00:00Z)  
Data courtesy of NOAA/NMFS/SWFSC/ERD, CoastWatch West Coast



# STRANDINGS IN CROWDED BEACHES



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# El Niño in 2024 and the challenges it can bring

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El Niño is a climate phenomenon – warming of ocean surface temperatures – that will bring significant challenges:

- Changes on ocean temperatures, disruption of food chains, shifts in migration patterns, increased storm activities, and increase in stranding events.
- In California, warmer than normal ocean temperatures can lead fish that marine mammal feed on to swim further out from shore to colder waters, creating a mass stranding of starving and emaciated animals, usually pups.

*Source: NOAA and CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*



# Patient Stories

Rescue & Rehabilitation

# Hermosa Beach – Domoic Acid Stranding

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**Admission Date: June 2023**

**Species: Sea Lion**

**Stranding: Domoic acid**

Mother and pup strandings at Hermosa Beach during the recent domoic acid event. Due to capacity limitations during the DA event, response team monitored the animals and cordoned them off to protect them and the public.

# Injured Sea Lion - Hermosa Beach

## (Herondo St. & Hermosa Ave.)

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**Admission Date:** 7/9/23

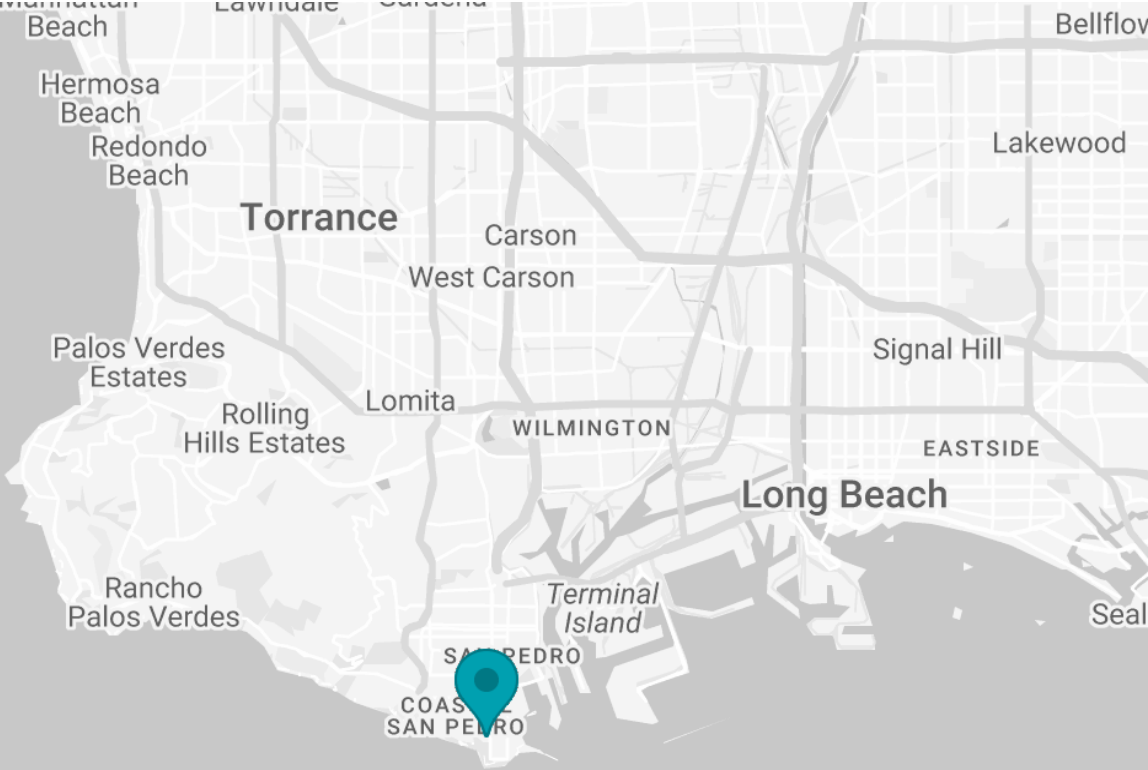
**Species:** Sea Lion

**Stranding:** Stingray Barb Injury

Subadult male sea lion with stingray barb injury found at approximately 22 Hermosa Avenue near Herondo Street.

This injured animal was retrieved, treated and released the same day and away from high traffic Hermosa Beach neighborhood.





## Our Focus In 2024

- Finalize Emergency Response Plan for Mass Strandings In LA County
- Create strong Public Private Partnerships with cities we serve
- Expand public education messaging and community engagement

## Questions?

