

# Journal of Student Research on Puget Sound



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## Reactions of the Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) to Recorded Barks of Same Species



Developing curiosity and confidence through student-led scientific research on the waters of the Salish Sea

# Reactions of the Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) to Recorded Barks of Same Species



By Matt, David, and Random 3rd dude

# Hypothesis Slide

If sea lions hear recordings of other sea lions barking then they will respond because it's how they communicate



# Procedure Slide



Sea lions will be observed and recorded for their reactions to the pre-recorded barks played from a portable stereo.



Observations will be made for their reactions to the recording before and during their barking.



# Life History



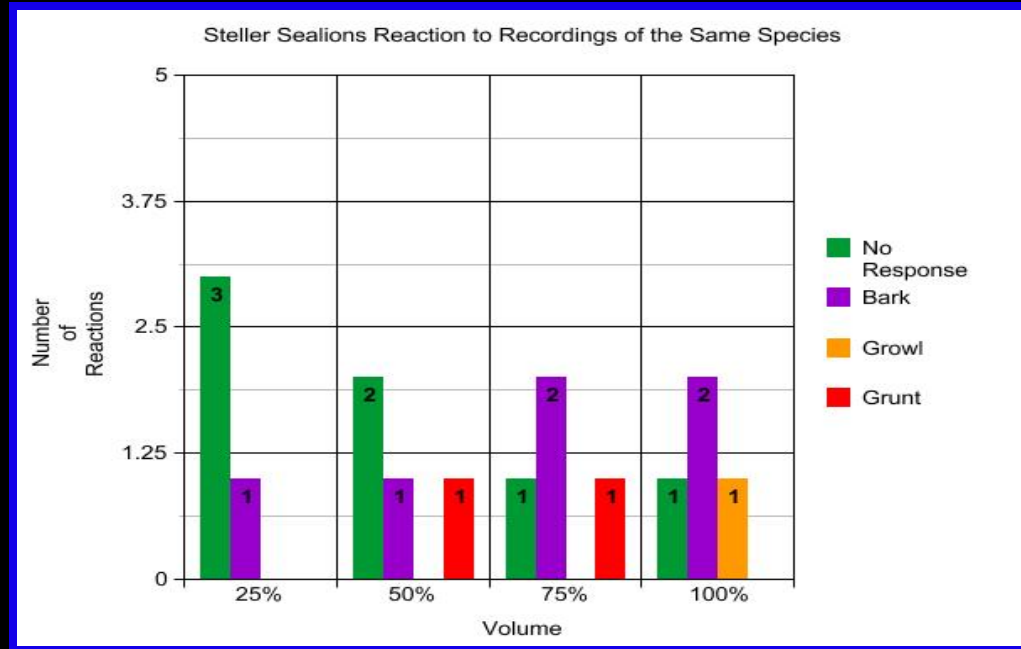
- The Steller Sea Lion's diet is mainly fish as well as squid and octopus.
- They are high on the food chain and are only preyed upon by Orcas and large sharks.

- Mating begins in the spring
- Pups are left alone for increasing amounts of time after birth
- Sexually mature at 5-8 years



# Results

All recordings were done approximately a 1/4 mile from the sea lions location. The results show responses after playing the recording. This was repeated every 15 min for an hour over 4 days at different volumes.



Volume	No Response	Bark	Growl	Grunt
25%	3	1	0	0
50%	2	1	0	1
75%	1	2	0	1
100%	1	2	1	0

# Conclusion

The majority of the time, the sea lions either didn't respond or gave a bark. When played at 25% volume, all but one of the times, the sea lions didn't respond while when played at 100% volume, all but one of the times, the sea lions gave some sort of response. It appeared that when played at high volumes, the sea lions gave more growls because they saw it as a threat.

To further this study, it would be helpful to record data of sea lions from different areas as well as test on different species of sea lions.

