

Seal Entanglement

How many seals get entangled in marine debris?

We are monitoring seal entanglement rates at Seal Rocks to record how many seals get entangled and what they get entangled in.

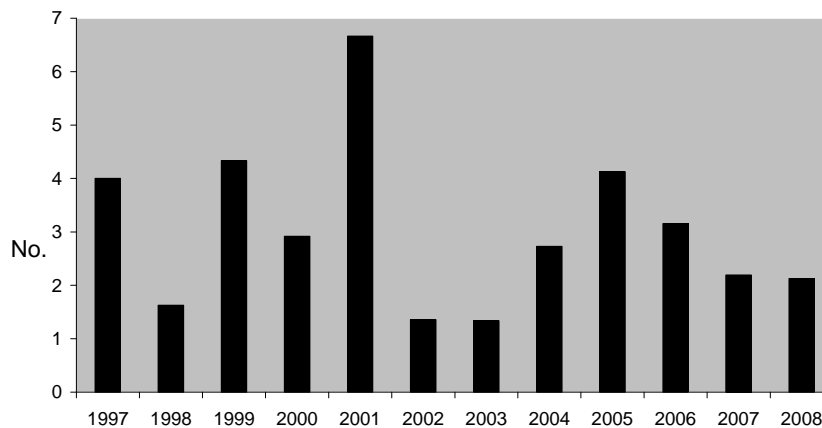
When we see an entangled seal, we try to catch it and remove the debris. In the past 10 years, we have seen over 290 entangled seals and removed debris from over 130 of these.



How often are entangled seals seen?

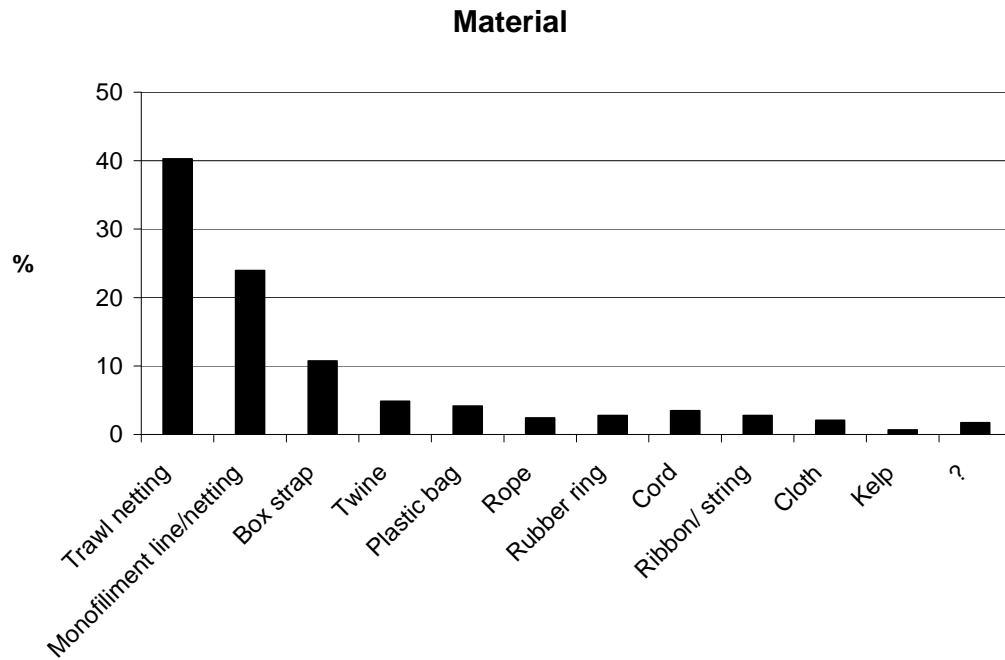
The number of entangled seals seen per day varies between years. During visits to Seal Rocks in 2008, we saw an average of 2.1 entangled seals per day and removed debris from an average of 1.1 seals per day.

Entangled seals seen per day at Seal Rocks



What material do the seals get entangled in?

Trawl net (usually green) has been the most common marine debris we see seals entangled in. Next comes monofilament (fishing) line. Trawl net has decreased in frequency in recent years, though, while fishing line, twine, plastic and cord has increased.



Which seals become entangled?

Pups and juvenile seals get entangled more often than do adults, probably because they will play with floating objects (like net and kelp).

