

Grey seal predation

What is it and how can you help?

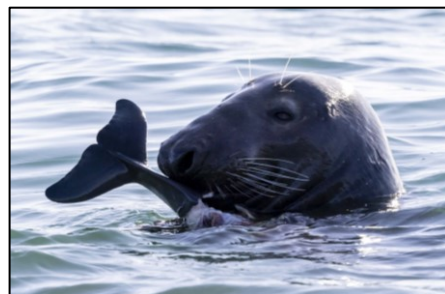
Some male grey seals kill and feed on grey seals, harbour seals and harbour porpoises. These interactions have been observed throughout the North Atlantic, but we don't know how often it occurs or how many individuals are involved.



Grey seal pup, Norfolk.
© Hanne Siebers 2024



Harbour seal pup, Shetland.
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Harbour porpoise, Isle of Man.
© Gary Weightman 2024

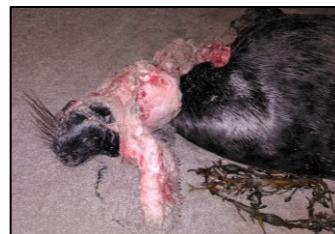
If you think you have seen anything that could be attempted predation, please email SMRUsealreports@st-andrews.ac.uk. Along with date/location, photos are particularly useful as we can identify individuals.

There is also a lot of information we can learn from dead seals.

Please report dead seals ASAP – fresh carcasses provide an opportunity to collect samples to find out the cause of death (e.g. starvation, disease, predation). Photos also help in understanding cause of death.

In England/Wales, please report to CSIP 0800 652 0333. For potential predation cases, please also email photos & info to SMRUsealreports@st-andrews.ac.uk

For example, predated seals often have smooth-edged, spiral lacerations with areas of tissue missing and canine puncture wounds (photos provided by SMASS).



In Scotland, please report dead seals to SMASS 07979 245893 reports@strandings.org