

Why are we counting seals?

There are two species of seals that live in Iceland: grey seals and harbor seals. Harbor seals are considered critically endangered here, while grey seals are vulnerable. This means that we should protect and monitor seals. We should keep track of how many seals of each species there are, and where they are.

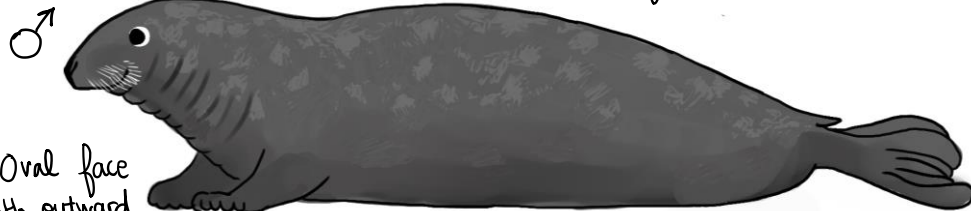
The coastline of Iceland is a very big place! So, it is always good to have many people look at the same time, and this is where you come in.

How to count seals?

Head to the coast and choose an area where you can see the coast really well. You can choose an area that you know often has seals, but you don't have to. It's ok if you don't see seals at all, it's still good to know where there are no seals! Then, using the data sheet on the other side, mark down the GPS location and the weather when you start the observation. Each time you see seals, mark down the time, your GPS location, the number of seals of each species on land and in the water, and any comment you have. Happy seal watching!

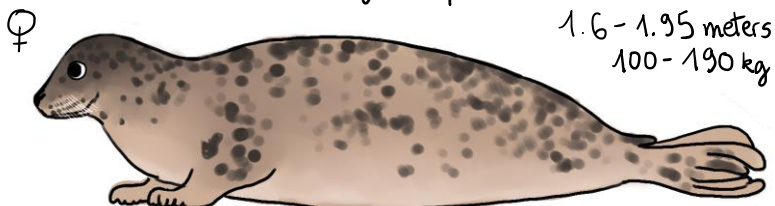
Grey seal

1.95 - 2.3 meters 170 - 310 kg



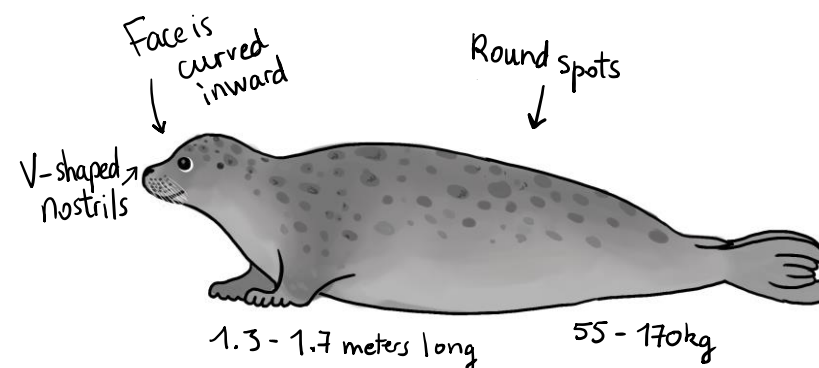
Oval face
with outward
curve

Irregular spots



1.6 - 1.95 meters
100 - 190 kg

Harbor seal



Face is
curved
inward

Round spots

1.3 - 1.7 meters long 55 - 170 kg

