



Shoreline Education for Awareness, Inc.

Docents of this non-profit organization provide information through on-site interpretation, wildlife brochures, campfire Atalks, and intertidal guided walks for schools and the public from Memorial Day to Labor Day. During other months, these services are provided by appointment when docents are available.
 Shoreline Education for Awareness, Inc.
 PO Box 957, Bandon, OR 97411
 541-347-3683



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., founded in 1986, is a private non-profit tax-exempt cooperative that provides educational and interpretive services for Shore Acres State Park and other parks in the Sunset Bay State Park District.
 Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.,
 PO Box 1172, Coos Bay, OR 97420
 541-888-3732, 888-3778 or 756-5401

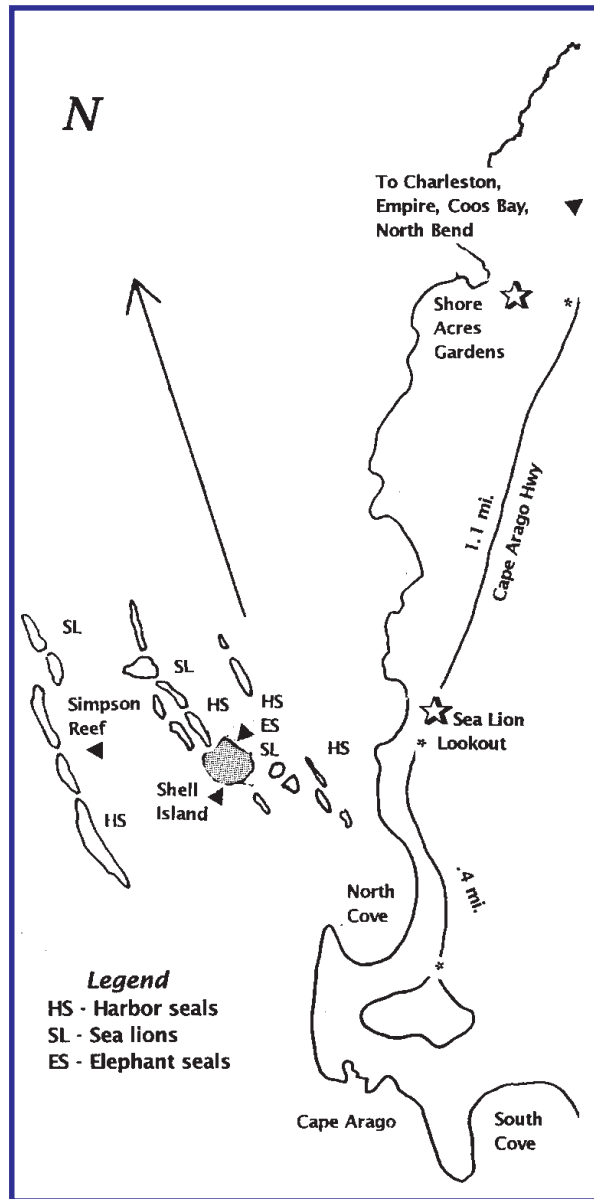


www.shoreacres.net

This brochure is produced by SEA and FoSA and is distributed in cooperation with Sunset Bay State Park District. Art by Joan Russell, SEA; Design and layout by Shirley Bridgham, FoSA 8 2004



Special thanks to Dr. Jan Hodder, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Charleston, Oregon



Great Blue Heron This large bluish, graceful bird with over a six foot wing span can be seen feeding in the intertidal at Cape Arago. They nest in tree tops around Coos Bay.

Simpson Reef & Shell Island

Cape Arago, Oregon

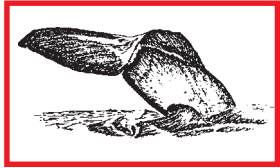


Wildlife Viewing at its Best

* Shell Island is part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge

The offshore rocks, islands and reefs provide breeding and resting areas for sea birds and marine mammals. Because these wildlife species are easily disturbed, the rocks and islands are closed to all public use.

Gray Whale - If you look out beyond Simpson Reef, you may see a whale blow. Almost all the large whales that come close to shore in Oregon are gray whales. Forty feet long as adults, these whales breed and give birth in the lagoons of Baja, California in the winter. From March to June they swim close



to Cape Arago as they travel to Alaskan waters for their summer feeding season. A few of the younger whales will stay around the Oregon coast for the summer and often can be seen feeding out beyond Simpson Reef. From December to February

you can again see whales swimming past the Cape as they head for the Baja breeding lagoons. When gray whales feed, they use their long fringe-like baleen, which hangs from the roof of their mouth, to scoop up sediment from the bottom of the ocean and strain out the burrowing animals. If you look with binoculars, you will see that the gray whale has a very blotchy skin. Barnacles, about two inches in diameter, grow in patches on the whale's skin giving the whale a mottled appearance.

Mature length B about 45'

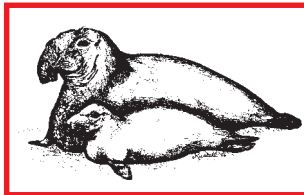
Weight B approx. 45 ton

Calf length B about 15'

Average weight B 1 ton

Northern Elephant Seal - These seals can be seen at Cape Arago all months of the year, although they show a peak of use during the spring.

Sometimes mistaken for logs, they lie on the beach in front of Shell Island, often right up against the base of the island. Most are young (1-4 yrs.) and most were born at Año Nuevo,



between San Francisco and Monterey. They haul out at Cape Arago to rest and molt B losing not only their hair, but the upper layers of their skin, a process of about three weeks. During this time, they do not eat or drink. The largest of the *seal family* and the deepest diving mammal, they having been recorded to depths of over 4,000 feet. They spend much of their life at sea where they feed on hake, sharks, rays, ratfish, and deep water squid.

Male B up to 2 1/2 ton; 15'+ in length

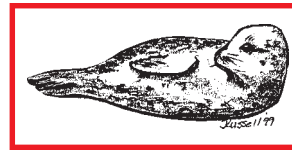
Female B up to 1200 lbs., 10' in length

Pup B approx. 75 lbs. At birth with black coat

Born in January and February



Harbor Seal B These seals are year-round residents. You'll see them on the outer reef and on Shell Island and the rocks behind the island. They are light to dark gray with contrasting spots. They give birth in this area in the spring. During this period, the pregnant females and the pups use different areas to rest. For this reason, the path to the north cove of Cape Arago is closed to the public from March 1 through June 30. Harbor seal pups can swim at birth. They nurse for about three weeks, then are weaned and no longer cared for by their mother. They eat a large variety of fish caught in the local area.



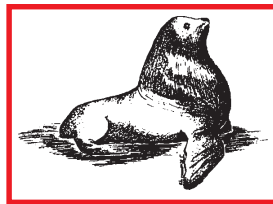
Male/female - approx. 250-400 lbs.

Length - about 5'

Pup - approx. 25-35 lbs. at birth

Born in April and May

Steller Sea Lion - Also known as the Northern Sea Lion, this is the largest of the *sea lions*. They breed in Oregon during the summer, but not at Cape Arago. They use this area as a haul-out site during the non-breeding season. Often, they can be seen on the northern rocks of Simpson Reef and on the large pointed rock to the north of Shell Island, and sometimes on Shell Island. When dry they are light sandy brown in color. Like all sea lions, adult males are 3 to 4 times larger than females.



Male B 1 ton+ and 10' in length

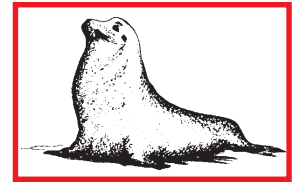
Female B approx. 600 lbs. And 7' in length

Pup B approx. 40 lbs. And silver black at birth

Born in June & July

- **An extraordinary experience** •
- New parking lot, viewing platform and interpretive signs installed in 2003.

California Sea Lion - As their name implies, these animals spend much of their time in California where they breed in the summer months. At the end of the breeding season, male California sea lions leave the breeding grounds and migrate north, arriving at Cape Arago in early August. Many of them continue north as far as British Columbia. The females and their pups remain in California. Large numbers of males (1,500-2,000) haul out at Cape Arago during the late summer and fall. Smaller numbers are present in the winter and then increase as they migrate back south in the spring. When dry, California sea lions are chocolate brown and many of the older males have a noticeable sun-bleached bump on their head. This bony crest on the skull grows larger as the sea lion ages. Often, they are seen on Shell Island and on the same rocks as the Steller sea lions. During their peak numbers in the fall, they lie out on any rock they can find. These are the animals that make the barking sound. The other seals and sea lions make few sounds during the non-breeding season.



Male B approx. 500-750 lbs., about 8 ft.

Female B approx. 200-400 lbs., about 6 ft.

Pup B approx. 35 lbs at birth in June

Pelagic Cormorant B These black shore birds have white flank patches that can be seen during the breeding season. They build their nests on the ledges of Shell Island. Look for 2 or 3 chicks in the nest in July. The chicks feed by putting their heads into the adult's throat to retrieve fish. Look with your binoculars.



Black Oystercatcher B These birds are year-round residents. The brilliant red bill of this black shore bird is not just for decoration. It's an important tool used to open mussels found in the intertidal area. As the oystercatchers fly over Shell Island, listen for their shrill call.

