

50 Years of Seal Rescue

34 Outside KZN

89 KZN North Coast

39 Durban

107 KZN South Coast

Species of Stranded Seals

South African fur seal

47

Sub- Antarctic fur seal

179

Antarctic fur seal

1

Crabeater seal

4

Leopard seal

2

Southern elephant seal

16

Unconfirmed species

20

SAAMBR has assisted with over

270

seals that stranded on KZN beaches and neighbouring areas.

177

of those seals were admitted into care by SAAMBR.

Cause of Stranding

Malnutrition & dehydration

Infection & disease

Injury

Fishing gear/ plastic

Vagrancy

Strandings often coincide with the sardine run

Sex of Stranded Seals

Unknown

85

126

Female

58

Male

Estimated Ages

Unknown

67

124

Pup/
Juvenile

78

Adult/
Sub-adult

Rehabilitation Process

A seal can stay with us up to 8 months before release.

If the seal can't be released, our ethics committee will review the case. Depending on the outcome of the review, the seal may be housed at uShaka Sea World or relocated to another reputable facility.

12 Most seals are released south of Gqeberha/ Port Elizabeth by boat into the Agulhas current. The fast current helps move them back to their home range in the Southern Ocean.

11 Release is planned by seal experts and permitting authorities. The seal is flipper tagged. Special interest seals may be fitted with a satellite tag to track their movement.

10 Once the seal has reached its goal weight, another medical check-up is done to see if it is fit for release.

9 The seal is led onto a scale for weekly weighing. Food intake is adjusted to achieve the goal weight. Feeding then progresses to the water and a more hands-off approach.

8 Once strong enough the seal is sedated for: Medical checks, blood sampling, X-rays.

7 Once the seal is stronger it is encouraged to swim. This stimulates grooming and bowel movements. Faecal samples are analysed. Seal is dewormed if needed.

6 Weighed. Offered food by hand. If seal refuses food, it is taught to eat from hand. Vitamin supplements in food. Left to rest (no swimming).

5 On arrival at uShaka Sea World: Weighed Rehydrated Antibiotics if needed Vitamin injections Clinical body exam Left to rest (no swimming)

3 If the seal is in good condition: Left to rest in place and guarded or relocated to a secluded beach and guarded.

2 The seals' condition is assessed.

1 Seal sighted on a beach. Reported to the KZN Marine Stranding Network or SAAMBR.

Outcome

56
Died

121
Released

38 Seals have been tagged.



Southern elephant seal



Sub-Antarctic fur seal



Crabeater seal



Antarctic fur seal



INCORPORATING



Helping people to care for our ocean