



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

2025 Ice Seal Stranding Updates

There were 27 reported ice seal strandings in 2025

Total Ice Seal Strandings by Species and Condition

Species	# Dead	# Alive
Ringed	21	1
Bearded	3	0
Spotted	1	1
Ribbon	0	0
Grand Total		27

Total Ice Seal Strandings by ISC Region and Species

Region	Ringed	Bearded	Spotted	Ribbon
North Slope Borough	21	3	1	0
Maniilaq	0	0	0	0
Kawerak	1	0	1	0
AVCP	0	0	0	0
BBNA	0	0	0	0
Total	22	3	2	0

The two live seals were transported to the Alaska Sealife Center (ASLC) in Seward. A male spotted seal pup was reported in Nome on June 15, 2025. Consultation between NOAA Fisheries, ISC, Kawerak, and ASLC led to the decision to transfer the pup to ASLC the following day. The pup was estimated to be 3 weeks old, was emaciated, dehydrated, and had gastrointestinal issues related to starvation and parasitism. The pup recovered from those health issues after receiving the necessary medical treatment. Due to NOAA Fisheries’s 2008 ice seal rehabilitation and release policy, established with input from ISC (ISC Resolution 01-2006), the rehabilitated spotted seal, now known as ‘Kova’, is non-releasable and will reside permanently at ASLC with a group of other ice seals.

The second live stranded ice seal was a male ringed seal pup that was reported out of habitat on December 17, 2025 on an oilfield in the Beaufort Sea. Oilfield staff attempted to return the pup to the ice but it continued to return to the island. The pup began to move into areas with heavy machinery and activity so operators put it into a wooden crate and reached out to NOAA Fisheries stranding staff. The pup appeared to be in good health and was about 2.25 ft in length when collected. The pup was admitted to ASLC for rehabilitation on December 18, 2025 , traveling from Deadhorse to Anchorage, and on to Seward. Upon intake assessment, the pup was found to have mild liver disease and lungworms. Both conditions have been successfully treated and the pup, now known as ‘Mavsaq’, is non-releasable and will be moved to another captive facility. Until then, he is on incidental display at ASLC, where he is a thriving, very vocal member of the rehabilitation community.