



## Seals vs. Sea lions – What’s The Difference?



### SEALS (*Family: Phocidae*)

Example: Harbor Seal  
No external ear flap



Small front flippers with claws/hair



Marcel Burkhard/Creative Commons

Hind flippers angled backwards;  
do not rotate (appear to wriggle on land)



Generally quiet on land  
Colors vary but mostly blue-grey

### SEA LIONS (*Family: Otariidae*)

Example: California Sea Lion  
Have external ear “flap”



extension.oregonstate.edu

Elongated front flippers with no claws/hair



www.oregonlive.com

Hind flippers rotate underneath the body  
(appear to “walk” on land using flippers)



www.czs.org

Much noisier, especially in groups!  
Dark brown in color