

Seal Entanglement

How many seals get entangled in marine debris?

We are monitoring seal entanglement rates at Seal Rocks to see how many get entangled and what they get entangled in. By publicising this, we hope to reduce seal entanglements.

We try to catch entangled seals and remove the debris from them.

Since 1997, we have seen over 318 entangled seals and removed debris from over 155.



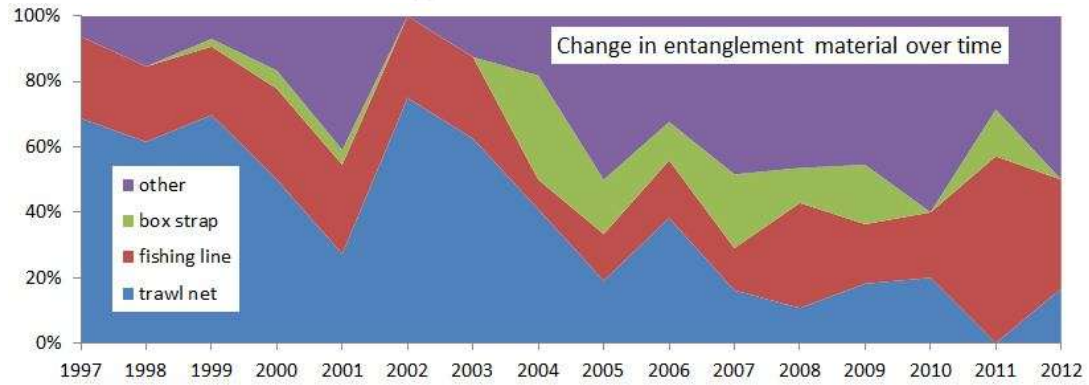
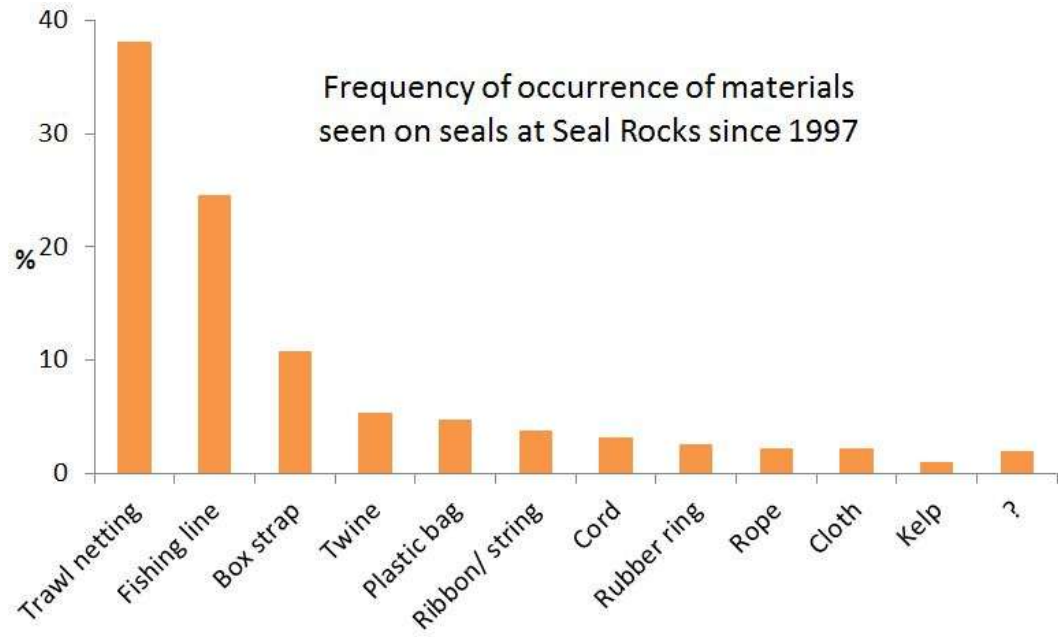
How often are entangled seals seen?

The number of entangled seals varies between years. During 6 single-day visits to Seal Rocks in 2011, we saw 7 entangled seals (i.e. 1.2 per day) and caught them all!



In what material do the seals get entangled?

Trawl net is the most common debris we've seen on seals. However, its occurrence has decreased, with increases in fishing line and other items (like twine, plastic and cord).



Which seals get entangled?

1st year seals (pups) and juveniles get entangled most, probably because they play with things in the water and on the beach.

