

Elephant seal flipper tag observations at the Año Nuevo UC Natural Reserve



Overview

Come learn about northern elephant seals with an internship at the Año Nuevo UC Natural Reserve. Every year thousands of elephant seals haul out at Año Nuevo to molt and breed. Researchers from UCSC attach flipper tags to identify individual seals. We need your help to work with researchers to find and record information about these tagged seals. This decades-long study helps us understand the demographics of this population.

The work involves two main tasks: (1) sitting at a cliff edge and reading flipper tags through a spotting scope, and (2) entering data into a web database. Interns may also have the opportunity to work more closely with the seals when under direct supervision of a researcher. Interns will undergo an extensive training to prepare them for this work as well as interaction with the public and with park docents, acting as ambassadors of the research program.



NMFS 14636

Requirements

Due to the extensive one-on-one training, we ask that interns be willing to volunteer for at least two quarters. Interns will be asked to volunteer at least one day per week (more often during winter and spring quarters). Although not a requirement, having access to your own vehicle to travel to Año Nuevo will be very helpful.

Additional information and preferred experience

- Poison oak and ticks are present throughout the park.
- You must be highly motivated and willing to work early mornings, before the park opens to the public.
- Must hike approximately 1-3 miles each day.
- Preference will be given to students



To apply for this internship, please fill out an application here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/anonuevoresearch/home/volunteer-opportunities>

For more information, please contact the Reserve Manager: Patrick.robinson@ucsc.edu