

## Alaska Crime Scene Investigations



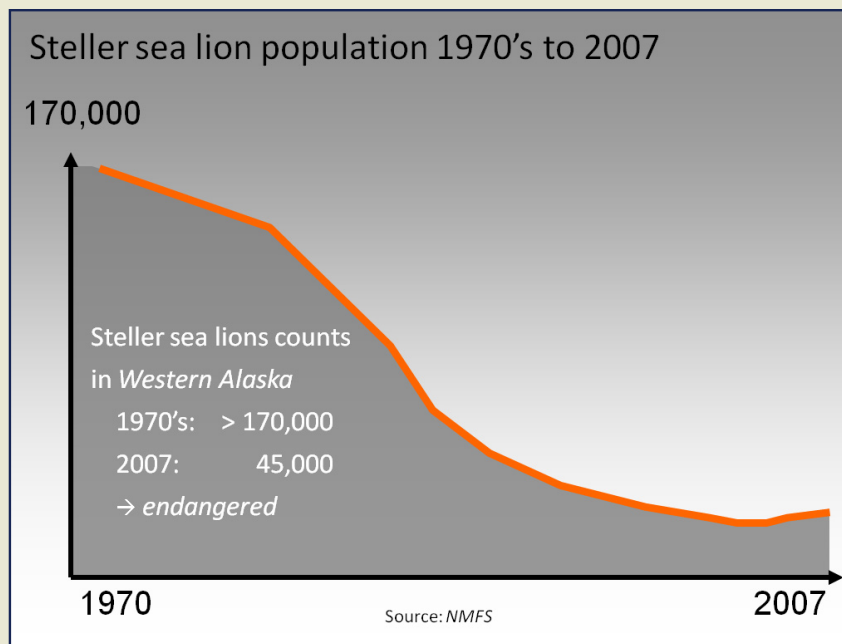
Google Imagery, TerraMetrics Map Data 2011;  
<http://maps.google.com>

### Crime Scene: Ushagat Island, western Gulf of Alaska, United States

**Location:** U.S.: Ushagat Island, western Gulf of Alaska, United States

**Description:** An uninhabited island in the western Gulf of Alaska, in the Barren Islands in Kodiak Island County, Alaska. Conditions here are icy, near freezing, windy, and rainy. It is challenging to land a boat here. [Click here](#) to view an enlarged Google Map image.

**Crime:** The decline of the Steller Sea lion, dwindling numbers of several different species of marine mammals: harbor seals, sea otters, and Steller sea lions.



**Evidence:** Fewer and fewer animals are counted in aerial photos taken during survey flights. Some animal haulouts are no longer used, and some beaches remain nearly empty even during the busy summer breeding season.

**Death Toll:** Unknown, but possibly in the thousands each year. As transmitted by the Life History Transmitters: 10 juvenile Steller sea lions to date out of 32 that received transmitters.

**Circumstantial Evidence:** Orcas caught on video at Chiswell Island eating Steller sea lions. One orca was found with 14 Steller sea lion flipper tags in its stomach!