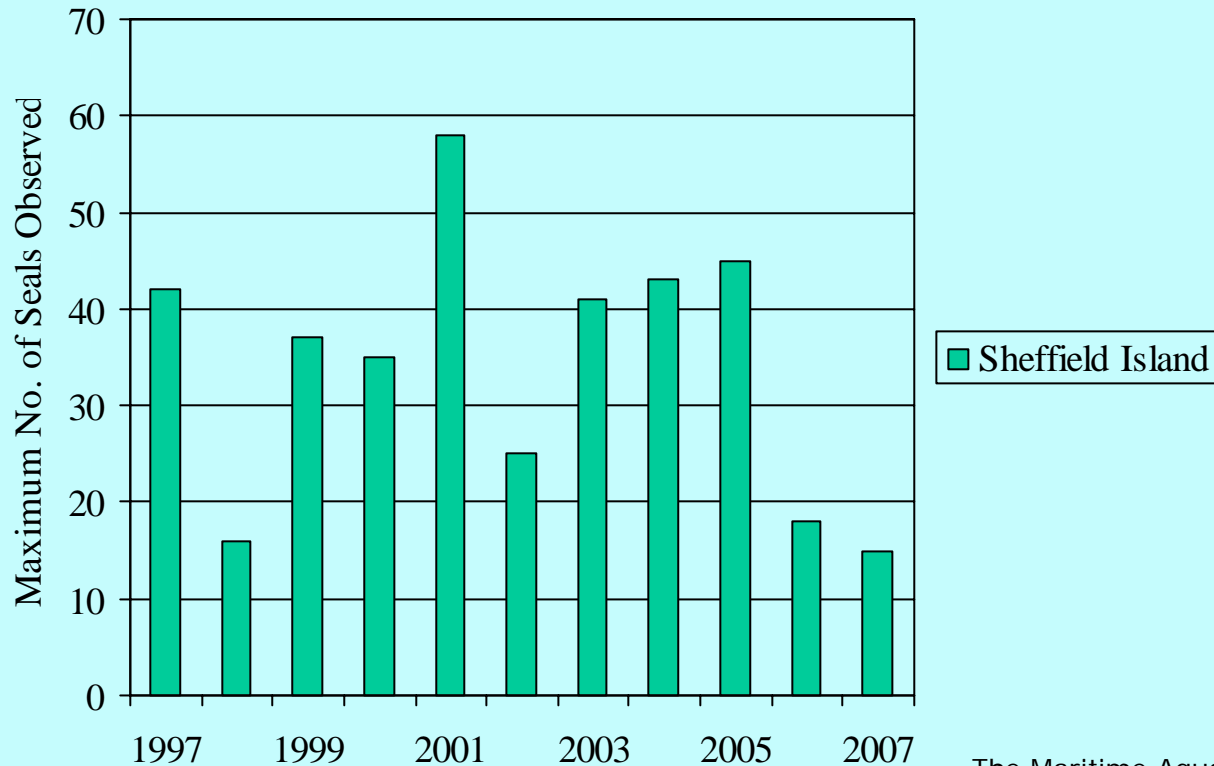


# Seals in Long Island Sound



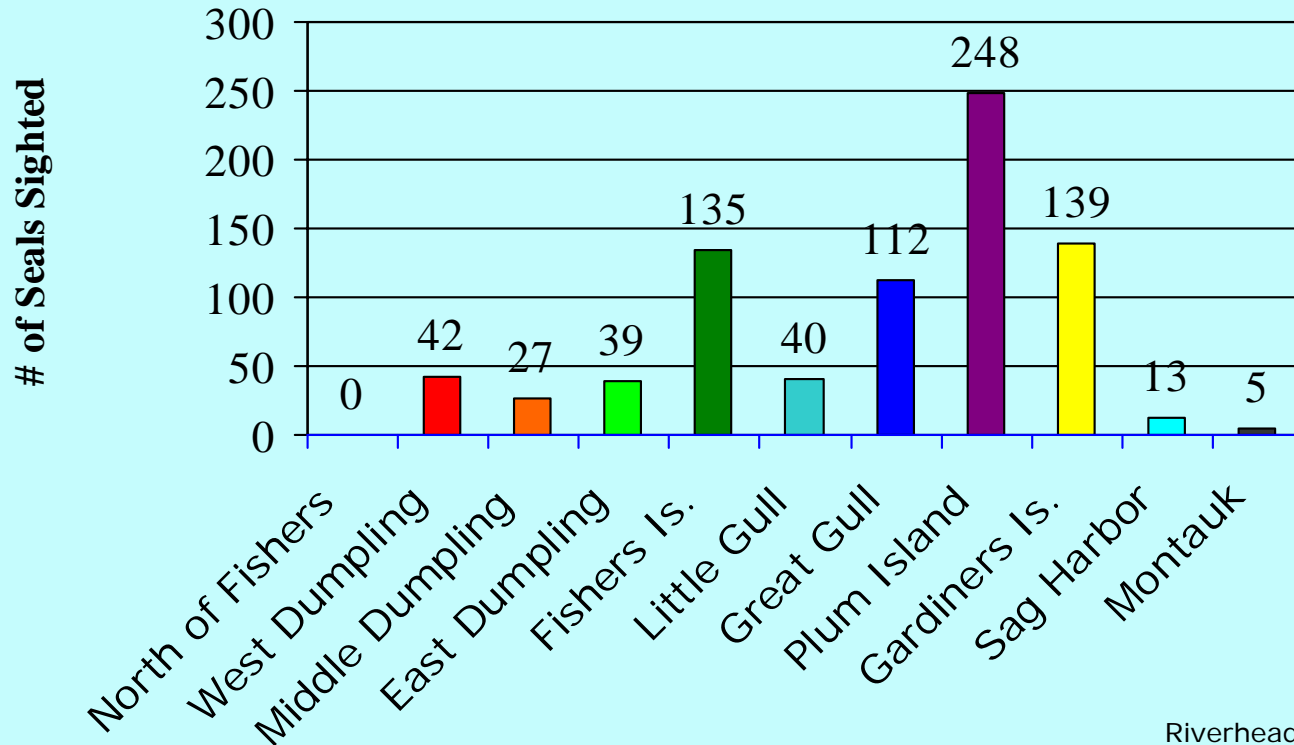
The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, CT has enlisted volunteers to observe and record the number of seals frequenting and hauling out at sites in western Long Island Sound from on several days December to early April. The chart on the left tracks the most seals observed in a day at Sheffield Island in each year from 1997 to 2007.

The Maritime Aquarium of Norwalk



Before colonial times, seals were quite common in Long Island Sound. As seals became overhunted in the northwest Atlantic their numbers and frequency of spending winter months in Long Island Sound decreased. In recent years, with restrictions on the killing of seals and other marine mammals, the seal populations of the New England states and New York are increasing. Harbor seals are the primary species observed with a few harp and gray seals also observed. There has been a general lack of scientific data on the population of seals wintering in LIS but that is changing.

# LIS Seal Haul-out sites, March 26, 2007



Riverhead Foundation

## LIS Haul-out Sites

Volunteers record the number of seals observed at various Long Island sites for one day each year in a monitoring project conducted by the Riverhead Foundation. All seals observed during this survey were harbor seals, excluding 40 gray seals observed at Little Gull Island.