

Webcam Catches Women Harassing Seals At Children's Pool

February 15, 2013

SAN DIEGO (AP) -- A webcam set up to monitor a San Diego seal colony around the clock has captured two women harassing the animals.

KFMB-TV reports the "seal-cam" caught the women kicking the seals, pulling their flippers and flashing lights at them at Children's Pool in La Jolla.

The camera was unveiled last month to capture the winter birthing season. It has infrared capability to capture seals giving birth at night.

The chairman of the Western Alliance for Nature, which streams footage from the camera on its website, said the women's behavior drove the seals off the beach.



The seals moved into the former children's swimming cove in the 1990s, sparking a long feud between their supporters and advocates of beach access.

A rope barrier now separates areas for people and seals.

Comments

SoCalMediaSurfer | February 18, 2013 at 12:18 p.m.

On that very first day of the camera being up, I put up a comment that still stands, they need to keep that rope up and keep people away for their safety and that if the seals! There were kids getting really close, if they get bitten or hurt, those stupid parents who are letting them get close will sue and we have a boondoggle of other problems, The seals are protected, so PROTECT THEM! I have no problem with standing on the other side of a rope to watch them and with some patrol presence to keep the idiots from doing what these women (more like girls) are doing, we can all be safe, Seals and Humans.

CaliforniaDefender | February 18, 2013 at 3:44 p.m.

Let's hope those two cruel and abusive girls are identified, arrested, and given a long prison sentences.

I'm very glad the camera has been set up. It should prove very useful in identifying and arresting anyone else who attempts to commit similar crimes in the future.

Ryan0 | March 20, 2013 at 8:12 p.m.

Approaching the seals is against the law according to the marine mammal protection act.
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa/text.htm>

A) The term "harassment" means any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which—

- (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild; or
- (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

I'd say what those girls did had the potential to injure or disturb the seals.

It is sad that on my one trip there I had to help someone forcibly remove a group from the beach who were harassing the seals.

Source: <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2013/feb/18/webcam-catches-women-harassing-seals-at-childrens/>