**Supporting Information.** Feddern, M.L., G.W. Holtgireve, and E.J. Ward. 2021. Delayed trophic response of harbor seals to ocean condition and prey availability during the past century.

**Section S1. Methods for compound specific stable isotope analysis**

Collagen samples were analyzed for both CSSIA and bulk δ15N requiring a total of 10 mg of purified collagen (100 mg of bone). Preliminary analyses were conducted to determine the highest rate of collagen return from bone sampled from different parts of the skull to minimize destruction. Samples were primarily taken from the internal occipital shelf to maintain external integrity. Bone was decalcified using 0.2 M HCl for 24-72 hours depending on bone thickness, followed by centrifugation and nanopure water rinse. Removal of humic acids was conducted using 0.125 M NaOH for 20 hours. Samples were washed to a neutral pH, then solubilized in 0.01N HCl. Once solubilized samples were dried under a stream of N2 and freeze dried. Freeze dried collagen was analyzed for bulk isotopic composition of nitrogen by the UW IsoLab (isolab.ess.washington.edu) using a coupled elemental analyzer-isotope ratio mass spectrometer following the standard protocols of the laboratory. C:N ratios (calculated on a mass basis) were calculated from these data, which is a measure of the quality for carbon and nitrogen analyses of bone collagen for isotopic analysis (citation). Only three observations were outside of the acceptable rang of 2.7-3.6; indicating there was no substantial loss of glycine or addition of nitrogen due to microbial processing from mortality, decay, curation, and analysis.

δ15N of eleven amino acids (alanine, glycine, proline, aspartic acid, leucine, isoleucine, valine, threonine, serine, glutamic acid, phenylalanine) were measured in the UW Facility for Compound-Specific Isotope Analysis of Environmental Samples. Samples were prepared following the procedures developed by Chikaraishi et al. (2007) and protocols by Rachel Jeffrey’s lab at University of Liverpool UK which are modifications of that published by Metges et al. (1996) and Popp et al. (2007). Briefly, proteins were hydrolyzed in 6N HCl and purified using a cation exchange column. Norleucine was added as an internal standard. Amino acids were esterified using isopropanol acetyl chloride, and derivatized via acylation with 4:1 toluene: pivaloyl chloride. Samples were brought up in ethyl acetate and analyzed using a coupled gas chromatography-combustion-isotope ratio mass spectrometer system (GC-C-irMA; Thermo Scientific Trace GC + GC IsoLink coupled to a Delta V irMS) in continuous flow mode monitoring masses (m/z) 28 and 29. A 30 m x 0.32 mm x 0.50 μm Agilent Technologies DB-35 capillary column with 35% Phenyl and 65% polysiloxane stationary phase and moderate polarity was used (Chikaraishi et al. 2010) with an inlet temperature of 260 C, column flow of 2 ml/min and oven ramp of 9 ˚C min-1. For each run a 12 amino acid external standard with known isotopic composition was injected four times to condition the column followed by sample injections. Samples were injected in triplicate, with the 12 amino acid standard mixture injected every two samples (or six injections). A two-hour column oxidation was performed after 6 samples (25 injections) followed by a 30-minute backflush. δ15N was measured as:

For each machine run, a linear model was fit for each individual amino acid using the following equation:

Where *m* represents the slope of the precision drift, *t* represents the injection number since last column oxidation, and *Std* represents the δ15N of an individual amino acid for a standard observation. The data was then corrected using the following equations:

Where *Daa,t* is the difference between an observed standard δ15N (*Stdaa,t*) for a given amino acid (*aa*) at a given injection number (*t*) and the true δ15N for that standard. Then:

Where the drift value, Daa,t, is subtracted from the sample value for a given amino acid and a given injection to correct the observed sample values for precision drift since last column oxidation. Mean sample corrected values for the triplicate injections were used for all analyses and trophic position calculations. Norleucine had lower precision in standards compared to phenyalanine, therefore no correction using the internal standard was applied. Mean precision for a given AA standard was calculated using the standard deviation of the external standard injections for a given run after drift correction and taking a mean of each run's standard deviation (Table S5). Conditioning injections were omitted from this calculation.

**Section S2. Approaches for variations in Trophic Enrichment Factors**

Trophic discrimination factors are variable based on animal diet (omnivory/carnivory versus herbivory), pathways of nitrogen excretion, and trophic level (Nielsen et al. 2015, McMahon et al. 2015) with ominvory/carnivory and higher trophic levels demonstrating the lowest trophic discrimination for most amino acids. Trophic discrimination has ultimately been attributed to diet quality (similarity in tissues between consumer and prey) and mode of nitrogen excretions, although the relative impacts of each is difficult to discern, especially considering most controlled feeding studies include low-trophic level ammonia excretion but not high trophic level species (i.e., adult hake or salmon) (Nielsen et al. 2015). In coastal Washington, most trophic transfers are between high diet quality, piscivorous fish (ammonia excretion) with a high-quality transfer between fish and harbor seal (urea excretion). Studies using multiple trophic discrimination factors based on the food web structure and consumption type produce more accurate trophic position estimations especially for higher level consumers (McMahon et al 2015, McMahon et al. 2016, McMahon et al. 2019).

We applied multiple trophic position calculation frameworksequations for harbor seals to determine which parameterization of trophic enrichment factors and *β* produced the best trophic position estimations (Tables S1 & S2). We determined the best trophic position equation parameterization by 1) estimating the proportion of observations that fell within an ecologically realistic range, 2) identifying which amino acids produced consistently unrealistic values or had high uncertainty and 3) considering which equation was the most parsimonious. Based on known foraging patterns (Lance et al. 2012), we anticipate harbor seals have an average trophic position of 4 to 5. Applying a single beta value representative of aquatic primary producers (*βAq;* Table S2; Nielsen et al. 2015) consistently underestimated harbor seal trophic position (Figure S2). For the trophic position parameterizations that applied *βAq*, equation 3 (Table S1) produced the greatest proportion of ecologically realistic observations, but only 0.66 of observations produced a trophic position estimate between 4 – 5 (Figure S3). Applying a *β* value that is weighted for both C3 and C4 (*βW*)production pathways improved trophic position estimates by producing more ecologically realistic observations. Both equations 2 & 4 (Table S1) performed similarly, with 0.76 and 0.80 observations falling between the ecologically realistic range (3-4), respectively. Equation 2 (Table S1, Figure S3) was selected as the best parameterization as it was more parsimonious compared to equation 4 (Table S1) and was applied for all analyses.

Aspartic acid performed poorly with the greatest variability in trophic position estimates. Aspartic acid has a long tissue turnover time, approximately twice that of phenyalanine (Downs et al. 2014). This discrepancy in tissue turnover time between the source amino acid (phenyalanine) and trophic amino acid (aspartic acid) likely introduces variability into trophic position estimates, as the two amino acids incorporate isotopic signatures on different timescales (see Section S6). As a result, aspartic acid was omitted from the analysis. The final parameterization applied equation 2 (Table S1), *βW*, and included the following trophic amino acids: glutamic acid, alanine, proline, and valine.

**Section S3. Identifying size and sex-based trends in harbor seal trophic position**

Only a subset of the analyzed samples included month of collection, sex, and length metadata. Therefore, separate month, length, and sex specific analyses were fit to the data using all available data for each. Standard linear models (equation S5) with 1) sex as a factor and 2) length as a continuous covariate and 3) month as a continuous covariate were fit to both Salish Sea and coastal WA for each individual trophic amino acid. These models were used to test whether trophic position varies with length and sex, whether these trends are consistent between amino acids, and whether one year was an appropriate approximation for tissue turnover of bone collagen. The standard linear models took the following structure:

where *y* represents harbor seal trophic position calculated from phenylalanine and a trophic amino acid *Tr*, ***X*** is a matrix of bottom-up drivers for a given model, ***β*** is a vector of covariates (sex, length, month, location), and *a* is the intercept. There were no significant differences in trophic position between male and female harbor seals in either the Salish Sea (Figure S5A) or coastal Washington (Figure S5B); this relationship was consistent across amino acids. Similarly, trophic position did not change based on harbor seal length (Figure S4). Interestingly, the exception to this finding was trophic position calculated by proline, which showed a significant decline with size. Mean harbor seal trophic position calculated from proline for harbor seals ranging from 150 - 180 cm in standard was 0.6 lower than harbors seals that were less than 120 cm of standard length (Figure S4). Trophic position calculated from alanine, aspartic acid and valine also showed negative trends with size, although the trend was not statistically significant, while trophic position calculated from glutamic acid was positive but also not statistically significant. There was also no observed ‘seasonality’ in harbor seal trophic position (Figure S1) indicating 1-year physiological delay was a reasonable approximation for tissue turnover time.

Harbor seals in Washington do not have distinct trophic ecology based on adult size (Figure S4) or sex (Figure S5). Bjorkland et al. (2015) did not observe sex or size (weight) based differences in bulk 15N values in harbor seals in the San Juan Islands in the Salish Sea between 2007 and 2008. Our results agree with this finding and with similar studies of other Pacific pinniped species (Drago et al. 2009, Dehn et al. 2007). While both male and female harbor seals have a similar trophic position, it is possible sex and size-based differences in foraging strategies within a similar trophic position exist (Bjorkland et al. 2015, Wilson et al. 2014). Additionally, this study focused on adult harbor seals and changes in trophic position between juveniles, sub adults and adults are possible as indicted by pinniped studies (Zhao et al. 2004). Regardless, our results show long-term consistencies in the trophic niche exploited by both male and female harbor seals regardless of adult size in Washington.

**Section S4. Identifying temporal trends in harbor seal trophic position**

To understand any changes through time to harbor seal foraging ecology over the past 100 years that were not explained by the tested environmental and food web covariates (Tables S3 & S4), generalized additive models (GAMs) were fit to the residuals of the best ocean condition and prey models with a smooth term by year and a k term of 5. These analyses (Figures S7 & S8) were compared to the raw time series of harbor seal trophic position data (Figure S6).

Trends in harbor seal trophic position through time were different between the Salish Sea and coastal Washington (Figure S6). The time series of the glutamic acid trophic position in coastal Washington had a significant positive trend through time (Figure S6b) that increased from 1948-1968 and remained relatively constant following 1975. Trophic position calculated from alanine and proline showed similar trends, although the alanine trophic position trend was not statistically significant (Figure S6a). In contrast, harbor seal trophic position in the Salish Sea calculated from glutamic acid, alanine, aspartic acid, and proline has been relatively stable over the past century, but the trophic position calculated from valine showed a significant decline since 1968.

There were no trends through time for the model residuals for any amino acid after accounting for environmental (Figure S7) and food web (Figure S8) conditions at all three time lags. This indicates that prey availability and ocean conditions account for most temporal variation observed in the trophic position time series (Figure S6). However, valine was a notable exception, which demonstrated a decreasing trend through time in model residuals for all of the models with the most support.

**Section S5. Methods for Multivariate Autoregressive State-Space (MARSS) Model**

A MARSS model was fit to herring stock spawning biomass and harbor seal stock population size to account for temporal gaps in stock data and create an overall index of abundance across stocks. Harbor seal datasets and herring biomass were collected by stock (n = 7 and n = 20, respectively) but did not have observations for every for every year (Figures S11 & S13). In order to get total population and total biomass estimates for these species for each year two MARSS models were fit to the data, one for each species, to estimate population and biomass for each year for each for each stock (Figures S12 & S14). For both datasets process variance (Q) assumed equal variance and covariance across stocks, and observation error (R) was assumed to be equal across stocks. U and x0 were both set to unequal, thus assuming they vary across stocks. Model states for each stock (Figures S12 & S14) were summed across years for total biomass/population size estimates. Harbor seal data has not been collected since 2000 and we assumed the population has remained constant from 2000-present.

**Section S6. Using multi-trophic amino acid analysis compared to only glutamic acid**

Mean harbor seal trophic position estimates were similar across trophic amino acids however some were more variable than others. The standard deviation of trophic position was higher for proline (4.6 ± 0.7, mean ± 1SD), and valine (3.7 ± 0.8) and included more ecologically unrealistic values compared to glutamic acid (4.5 ± 0.4) and alanine (3.9 ± 0.4). Trophic position calculated from aspartic acid (4.1 ± 1.0) had the highest standard deviation and also demonstrated an unusual trend through time compared to other amino acid trophic position calculations (Figure S6).

Application of a multi-amino acid trophic position calculation offered three distinct benefits compared to a glutamic acid only parameterization: 1) a more realistic parameterization of the trophic position equation 2) improved model certainty and 3) produced similar covariate coefficients (Table S6). Examination of the distribution of trophic position calculations for each individual trophic amino acid shows variability in accuracy and variance for single trophic amino acid calculations (Figures S2 & S3). For example, aspartic acid had a much wider variance compared to other amino acids (Figures S2 & S3) and also produced different trends through time (Figure S6).

It is likely differences in tissue turnover time between individual amino acids and phenylalanine contribute to the variance of the trophic position estimates derived from individual trophic amino acids. Downs et al. (2014) found phenylalanine takes 780 hours to reach 50% turnover in shrimp. This is comparable to glutamic acid, alanine, and valine which take 940, 642, and 942 hours respectively but substantially lower than aspartic acid which requires 1530 hours. The discrepancy between tissue turnover times between aspartic acid and phenylalanine is likely the cause of the wide range in observed values for aspartic acid derived trophic position compared to other trophic amino acids. Aspartic acid is incorporating the nitrogen isotope signature over a substantially larger time period relative to phenyalanine and thus may incorporate more prey switching and/or changes in the isotopic signature of primary producers.

Addition of alanine to the glutamic acid only model resulted in the greatest improvement in model certainty. A glutamic acid – alanine model supported the same best models for both the environmental and prey models at all time lags with the exception of the prey availability model for year-0. The combined tissue turnover of glutamic acid and alanine of shrimp (791 hours) is very similar to that of phenylalanine (780 hours) ensuring both the trophic and source amino acids were incorporated over a similar time scale (albeit the trophic amino acids were a wider time scale). Benefits of a multi-amino acid trophic position equation may not require four amino acids as previously suggested (Nielsen et al. 2015), but rather carefully selected trophic amino acids to ensure the trophic amino acids are incorporated over a similar time scale as the source amino acids. If tissue turnover times are unable to be approximated, utilizing four trophic amino acids or two source amino acids as suggested by Nielsen et al. (2015) would likely provide the same benefit as fewer, carefully selected amino acids based on tissue turnover times.

**Figure S1:** Analysis of seasonality of harbor seal trophic position for five different trophic amino acids (glutamic acid, alanine, aspartic acid, valine, and proline) calculated using the source amino acid phenylalanine and equation 2 (Table S2; Figure S3.2) with a weighted beta. Color corresponds to trophic amino acid, line shows the fit of a generalized additive model with a smoothed term by month (1 = January, 12 = December) and a k of 12. \* denotes a significant smoothed term.

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**Figure S2:** Distributions (density of probability, y-axis) of calculated trophic position (x-axis) for harbor seals in this study. Equations (1-4) refer to Table S1 and parameter values described in Table 1 of the main text. Colors correspond to trophic amino acids (*Tr*) and the grey box represents ecologically realistic trophic positions for harbor seals if they were to predate 1 trophic position above herring (trophic position of 2.5, minimum expected value) and one trophic position below killer whales (trophic position of 6, maximum). The value within the grey box corresponds to the percentage of observed trophic position values that fell within the ecologically realistic range.

****

**Figure S3:** Distributions (density of probability, y-axis) of calculated trophic position (x-axis) for harbor seals in this study applying equations (1-4) in Table S1 with βW instead of βAq as described in Table 1 of the main text.



**Figure S4:**  Relationship between harbor seal size (standard length, cm) and trophic position calculated using five different trophic amino acids (glutamic acid, alanine, aspartic acid, valine, and proline). The line shows the fit of a generalized additive model with a smoothed term by year and a k of 6 and \* denotes a significant smoothed term.

****

**Figure S5**: Sex specific trophic position for male (M) and female (F) harbor seals pooled over the past century and calculated using five different trophic amino acids (glutamic acid, alanine, aspartic acid, valine, and proline) for a) Salish Sea and b) coastal Washington specimens.

****

**Figure S6:** Time series of harbor seal trophic position in a) coastal Washington and b) the Salish Sea for five different trophic amino acids (glutamic acid, alanine, aspartic acid, valine, and proline) calculated using the source amino acid phenylalanine. Color corresponds to trophic amino acid, while line shows the fit of a generalized additive model with a smoothed term by year and a k of 6. \* denotes a significant smoothed term.

****

**Figure S7:** Time series of residuals by year for the three ocean condition models (year-0, year-1, year-2) with the most support for five different trophic amino acids (glutamic acid, alanine, aspartic acid, valine, and proline) calculated using the source amino acid phenylalanine. Color corresponds to trophic amino acid, while line shows the fit of a generalized additive model with a smoothed term by year and a k of 6. \* denotes a significant smoothed term.



**Figure S8:** Time series of residuals by year for the three ocean condition models (year-0, year-1, year-2) with the most support for five different trophic amino acids (glutamic acid, alanine, aspartic acid, valine, and proline) calculated using the source amino acid phenylalanine. Color corresponds to trophic amino acid, while line shows the fit of a generalized additive model with a smoothed term by year and a k of 6. \* denotes a significant smoothed term.



**Figure S9:** Residual plots for the year-0, year-1, and year-2 ocean condition models with the most support.



**Figure S10:** Residual plots for the year-0, year-1, and year-2 prey availability models with the most support.



**Figure S11:** Pacific herring spawning biomass by stock from Siple and Francis 2015. ****

**Figure S12:** MARSS model (described in Appendix S3) for Pacific herring spawning biomass.

****

**Figure S13:** Harbor seal population estimates by stock from Jeffries et al. 2003.

****

**Figure S14:** MARSS model (described in Appendix S3) for harbor seal population counts fit by stock.

**Table S1**: Equations for single and multi-trophic discrimination factor parameterizations of trophic position and the associated assumptions for each parameterization using the values described in Table 1 in the main text. *Tr* refers to an individual trophic amino acid. In addition to βAq (Figure. S1) the same equations were used with βW (equation 6, Figure S2). Applying βW has the additional assumption that both C3 and C4 plants contribute to the coastal food web in which harbor seals forage and that the contributions of each can be calculated from bulk δ13C data.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assumptions | Equation |
| 1. Assumes that all trophic transfers are best represented by the average TDF in this system |  |
| 2. Includes harbor seal TDF which assumes one trophic transfer is from high quality prey (and urea excretion) and assumes average TDF accurately represents all other trophic transfers |  |
| 3. Assumes harbors seal TDF is a better representation for all trophic transfers in this system (carnivores) compared to an average TDF. |  |
| 4. Assumes harbors seal TDF is a better representation for most trophic transfers in this system, includes a TDF similar to basal consumers (zooplankton / herbivores). |  |

**Table S2:** Trophic amino acid specific parameter values for β and trophic discrimination factors (TDF) to test parameterization of trophic position calculations using multiple TDFs and β values (Supplementary Material Appendix 1, Table S1, Figures S2 & S3).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Trophic Amino Acid | βAq  Nielsen et al. 2015 | βSeagrass  Vander Zanden et al. 2013 | βW  This study | TEFHS  Germain et al. 2013 | TEFPhyto  Chikaraishi et al. 2009 | TEFAve  Nielsen et al. 2015 |
| Glutamic acid (Glu) | 2.9 | -8.7 | -3.9 | 3.4 | 7.6 | 6.6 |
| Alanine (Ala) | 2.8 | -8.0 | -3.6 | 2.5 | 5.6 | 6.8 |
| Aspartic Acid (Asp) | 1.8 | -7.3 | -4.2 | 3.5 | 5.4\*  Nielsen et al. 2015 | 5.4\* |
| Valine (Val) | 3.4 | -6.8 | -2.6 | 7.5 | 4.2 | 4.6 |
| Proline (Pro) | 2.7 | -7.7\*  Not reported used average of other AAs |  | 5.5 | 5.0 | 5.0 |

**Table S3:** Covariates used to test ocean condition as a bottom-up driver of harbor seal trophic ecology. Total number of models tested = 35.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Time Series Description | Length | Source |
| Discharge | Total discharge from the Columbia River at Dalles, WA during summer months of high discharge (May-Oct) from monthly U.S. Geological Survey discharge data. | 1879-2018 | Data Source: [USGS 14105700](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=14105700) |
| Sea Surface Temperature (SST) | Average of monthly NOAA Extended Reconstructed SST for summer (Jul-Sep) in coastal Washington (48°N, 125°W). | 1854-2019 | Data Source: [NOAA ERSST V5](https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/data/gridded/data.noaa.ersst.v5.html)  SST data was obtained from NOAA\_ERSST\_V5 data provided by the NOAA/OAR/ESRL PSD, Boulder, Colorado, USA, from their Web site at https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/ (Huang et al. 2017). |
| Upwelling | Mean coastal upwelling index (CUI) coastal Washington (45°N, 125°W) using Bakun upwelling calculation based on Ekman's theory of mass transport due to wind stress, for spring (Apr-Jun) and summer (Jun-Sep). | 1946-2019. | Data Source: [NOAA ERD SWFSC](https://oceanview.pfeg.noaa.gov/products/upwelling/dnld) |
| North Pacific Gyre Oscillation | 2nd dominant mode of sea surface height variability in the northeast Pacific. Correlates with fluctuations in salinity nutrients and chlorophyll-a. | 1950-2019 | Data Source: Di Lorenzo et al. 2008. [NPGO](http://www.o3d.org/npgo/) |
| Multivariate ENSO Index | The extended Multivariate ENSO Index (MEI) uses Principle Component analysis on six variables: sea-level pressure, u and v component of the surface wind vector, sea surface temperature and cloudiness fraction in the tropical Pacific. | 1950-2019 | Data Source: NOAA/ESRL (https://psl.noaa.gov/enso/mei.ext/table.ext.html) via California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment [MEI](https://www.integratedecosystemassessment.noaa.gov/regions/california-current/cc-indicator-climate-ocean-drivers) |
| Pacific Decadal Oscillation | Same as eastern Bering Sea | 1900-2018 | Data Sources: [PDO](http://research.jisao.washington.edu/pdo/PDO.latest.txt); Zhang et al. 1997; Mantua et al 1997 |

**Table S4:** Covariates used to test prey availability as a bottom-up driver of harbor seal trophic ecology. Total number of models tested = 30.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Time Series Description | Length | Source |
| Herring Biomass | Adult herring spawning biomass from egg deposition surveys for the estimated from Washington State Department of Fish and wildlife by Siple and Francis 2015. | 1973-2012 | Siple, M.C. and T.B. Francis. 2015. Population diversity in Pacific herring of the Puget Sound, USA. |
| Hake Biomass | Pacific Hake (whiting) relative spawning biomass in US and Canadian waters. | 1973-2012 | Berger et al. 2017. Table 8 total spawning biomass. |
| Chinook Salmon Spawners | Chinook salmon spawner summary data including all populations with a time series with data from at least 1973. Includes: Cedar River, Coweeman River, Elochoman River, Grays and Chinook Rivers, Green River, Kalama River, Lewis River, Lower Cowlitz River, Lower and Upper Sauk River, Lower and Upper Skagit River, McKenzie River, Mid-Hood Canal, Nisqually River, Puyallup River, Skokomish River, Skykomish River, Snoqualmie River, Suiattle River, Toutle River, Upper Gorge Tributaries, White River and White Salmon River. | 1973-2012 | Northwest Fisheries Science Center, 2020: SPS Abundance - Salmon spawner abundance data compilation and database management, [https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/apex/f?p=261:1:::NO::P1\_ARCHIVE\_NOTE\_CHECK:1&cs=1A0A1845C9A3C7202FD5C2934C6FD9410#](https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/apex/f?p=261:1:::NO::P1_ARCHIVE_NOTE_CHECK:1&cs=1A0A1845C9A3C7202FD5C2934C6FD9410) |
| Smolts | Hatchery release data from the Regional Mark Information System and Wild Salmon Production data summarized by Chasco et al. 2017. Data was summed across both datasets for total juvenile salmon production. | 1973-2012 | RMIS: https://www.rmis.org//rmis\_login.php?action=Login&system=cwt  Summarized: https://github.com/bchasco/COAST\_WIDE |
| Harbor Seal Abundance | Harbor seal population estimates based on coastal estuary, eastern Bays, Hood Canal, Olympic Peninsula, Puget Sound, San Juan Islands, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca counts. | 1975-2012 | Jeffries, S., H. Huber, J. Calambokidis and J. Laake. 2003. Trends and status of harbor seals in Washington state: 1978-1999. The Journal of Wildlife Management 67: 207-218. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Amino Acid | Mean Precision |
| Phenylalanine | 0.34 |
| Glutamic Acid | 0.56 |
| Alanine | 0.46 |
| Proline | 0.48 |
| Valine | 0.38 |
| Aspartic Acid | 0.83 |
| Norleucine | 0.40 |

**Table S5:** Mean standard precision for amino acids.

**Table S6:** Pearson correlation coefficients for harbor seal trophic position calculated from five trophic amino acids.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Trophic Amino Acid | Glutamic acid (Glu) | Alanine (Ala) | Aspartic Acid (Asp) | Proline (Pro) | Valine (Val) |
| Glutamic acid (Glu) | **-** |  |  |  |  |
| Alanine (Ala) | 0.79 | **-** |  |  |  |
| Aspartic Acid (Asp) | 0.25 | 0.29 | **-** |  |  |
| Proline (Pro) | 0.46 | 0.61 | 0.17 | **-** |  |
| Valine (Val) | 0.58 | 0.61 | 0.18 | 0.39 | **-** |

**Table S7:** Covariates included in the best models using standard linear models and only glutamic acid to calculate trophic position. Supported models is the number of models with AIC < 1.97.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Model | Covariates | Supported Models | Comparison to hierarchical models |
| year-0 Environment | Summer upwelling, Columbia River discharge \* | 14 | Summer upwelling was included in best model and 6 others |
| year-1 Environment | Sea surface temperature, spring upwelling \* | 3 | Sea surface temperature was included in all supported models, best model was the same as the hierarchical framework |
| year-2 Environment | Summer upwelling, MEI | 4 | Summer upwelling was included in all supported models, best model was the same as the hierarchical framework |
| year-0 Food web | Herring | 2 | Supported model was different than the model with the hierarchical model with most support |
| year-1 Food web | Chinook smolts | 3 | Best hierarchical model was included in the supported models |
| year-2 Food web | Chinook smolts † | 9 | Best hierarchical model was included in the supported models |

**References**