



Galapagos Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus galapagoensis*)

Size: Head and body length, 1.1 - 1.6 m **Weight:** 28 - 68 kg **Habitat:** Breeds exclusively on the Galapagos archipelago **Surviving number:** Estimated at 10,000 - 15,000



Photographed by Michael S. Nolan

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

The best never rest. That's the philosophy the dominant male Galapagos fur seal lives by, defending his rule over a territory nonstop for four to six weeks until he becomes exhausted or is ousted by another male. The female takes charge of caring for their young, spending the first week of its life with their pup, then returning to it every other day after foraging. Slipping into the water in the darkness, fur seals search out small squid and

fish that migrate to the ocean surface at night. Highly dependent on food availability, they are vulnerable to devastating mortality rates when food sources disappear due to El Niño weather events.

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