

# South American sea lion

Otaria (in Japanese pronunciation)

**Scientific name** Otaria flavescens

**Classification** Carnivora, Otariidae

**Distribution** The coast and coastal islands of South America.



**Feeding Habits** They usually eat fish, squids, and crustaceans, but when it cannot get such animals by the influence by the climate fluctuation, they may prey penguins.

**Characteristics** Mature males are larger than females and have slightly longer hair on their heads like lion manes. They have shorter snouts which point slightly upward compared to the California sea lion. The body length of adult males is 2.6 m and the weight 300 kg, and 2 m and about 150 kg in adult females. They have a streamlined body shape for quick swimming in the water, and the whiskers help sense the underwater sounds of prey animals.

**Behavior and ecology** One male collects about 10 females to make a harem. The males come on shore first to create territories, and enclose the females in their territories.