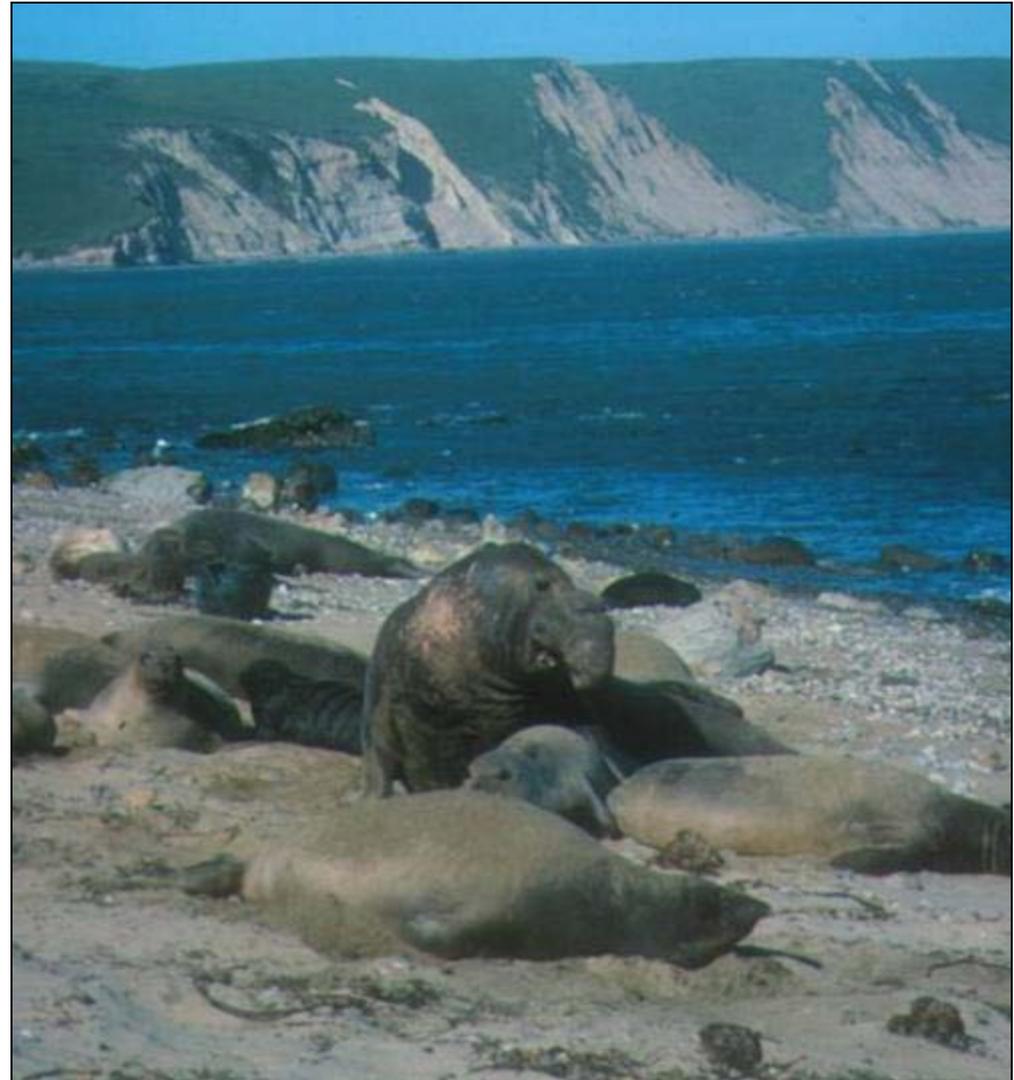
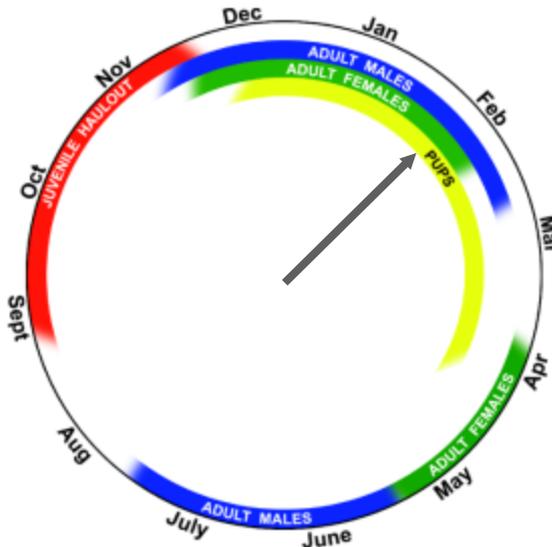


Year in the Life of an Elephant Seal

The Mating Season:

- Mating Strategies
- Females leave after mating
- Males find no attraction to the beach when all females are gone.



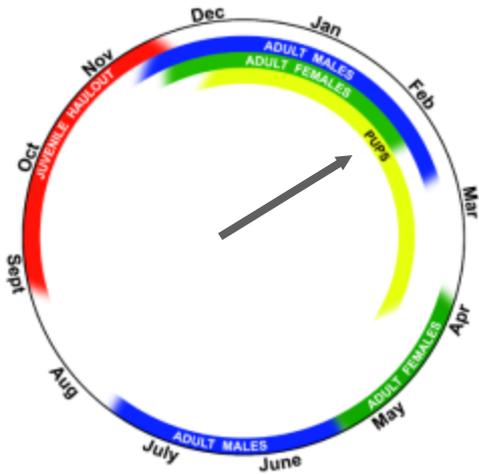
Point Reyes National Seashore Elephant Seal Docent Program



Year in the Life of an Elephant Seal

On Their Own:

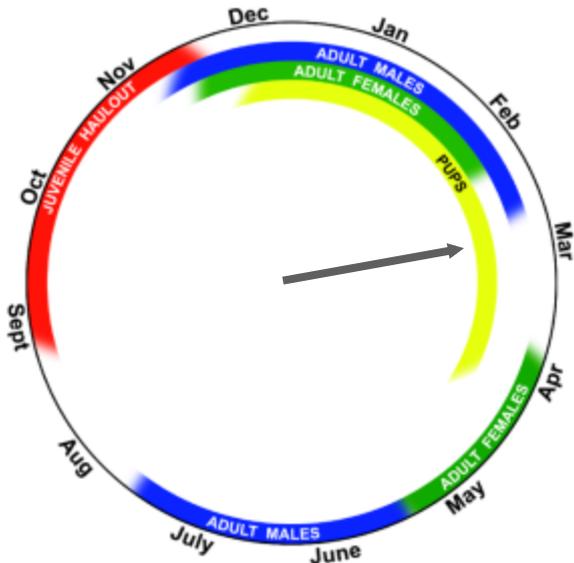
- February - March
- Weaners live on fat stores
- Weaner Pods grow as season nears end



Year in the Life of an Elephant Seal

On Their Own:

- Learn to swim and forage on their own



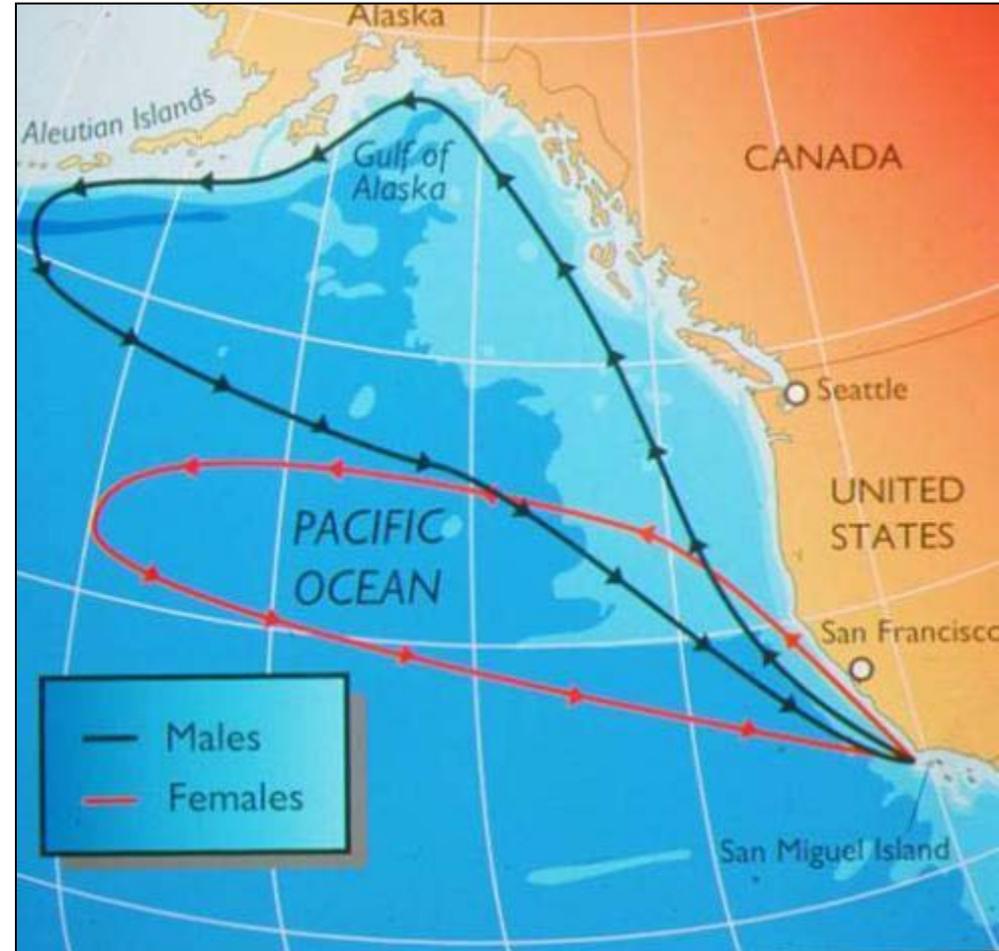
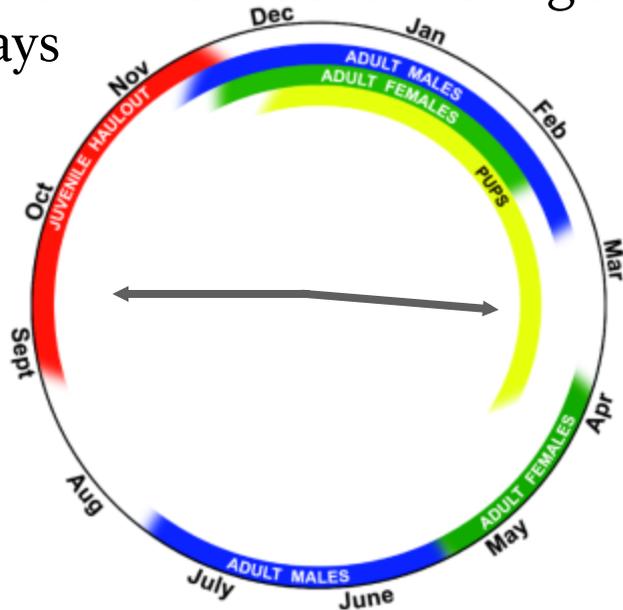


Point Reyes National Seashore Elephant Seal Docent Program

Year in the Life of an Elephant Seal

Elephant Seals At Sea:

- Different Routes for Males and Females
- Travel up to 14,000 miles in two round trips per year
- From Ano Nuevo- Bering Sea in 10 days



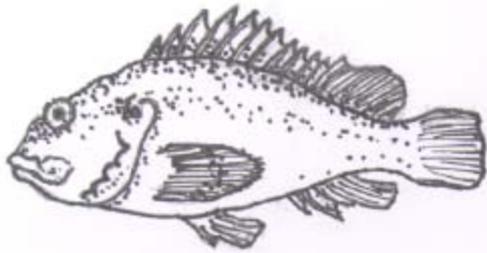
Foraging routes for males and females



Year in the Life of an Elephant Seal

Elephant Seals At Sea

Diet (Determined by stomach contents)



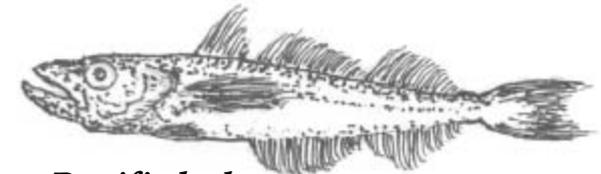
Rockfish

- 18 inches
- Abundant
- Found between 73- 640 meters



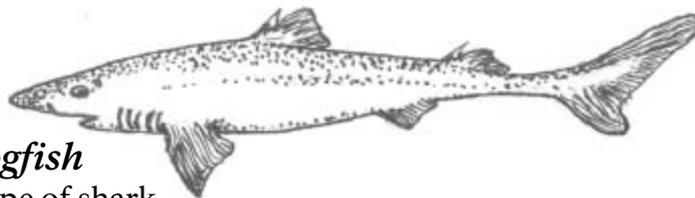
Squid

- One to six feet
- Most frequently consumed prey
- Found in deep water in large schools



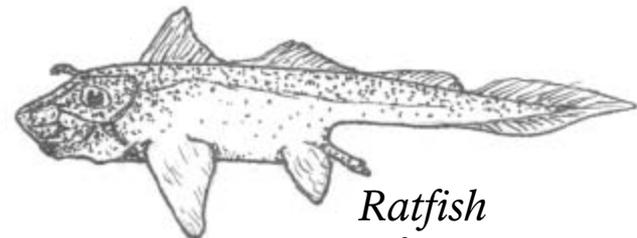
Pacific hake

- 3 feet
- Found between 183- 914 meters
- Found in schools
- Vertically migrates for night feeding near surface



Dogfish

- Type of shark
- Abundant in nearshore waters
- Found at up to 950 meters
- Has sharp venomous spines on front of dorsal fin



Ratfish

- 3 feet
- Abundant
- Found between 92- 913 meters

Year in the Life of an Elephant Seal

Elephant Seals At Sea:

Diving Behaviors

- Seals spend 90% at sea diving
- Can reach over 5,500 ft in depth (av. 1,500 ft)
- Dive time: up to 90 minutes (av. 23 minutes)

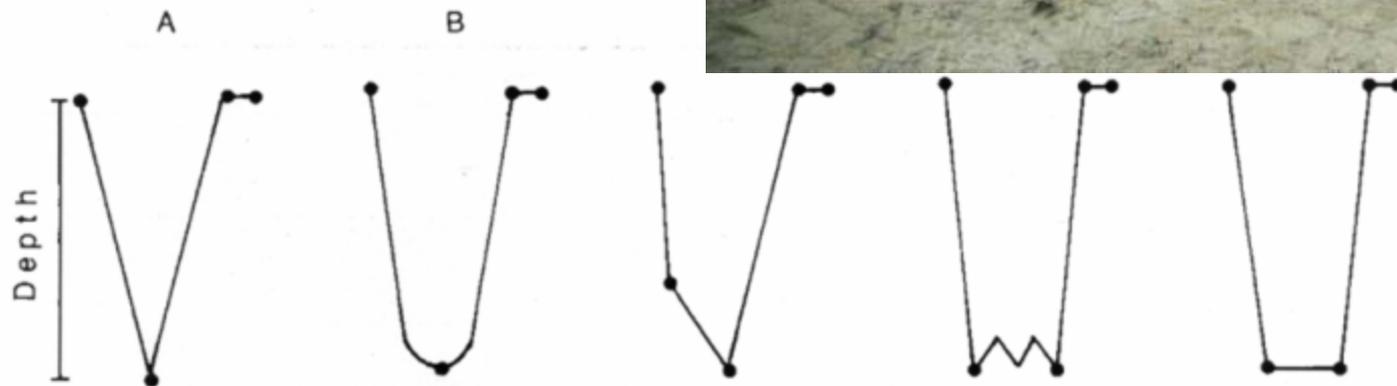


Fig. 17.1. Schematic profiles of five dive types observed in the dive records of northern elephant seals (adapted from Le Boeuf et al. 1992). The points of each dive type were digitized to determine dive elements.

Year in the Life of an Elephant Seal

Elephant Seal Predators

- Whites sharks are a near shore predator
- Cookie- cutters are offshore shark



White Shark



Cookie- Cutter Shark



Shark bites



Year in the Life of an Elephant Seal

Molting: Returning to Land

- April through July depending on sex and age.
- Radical molt
- 3- 4 week process
- Blood flow to skin require seals to haul out
- All skin and hair is shed at one time

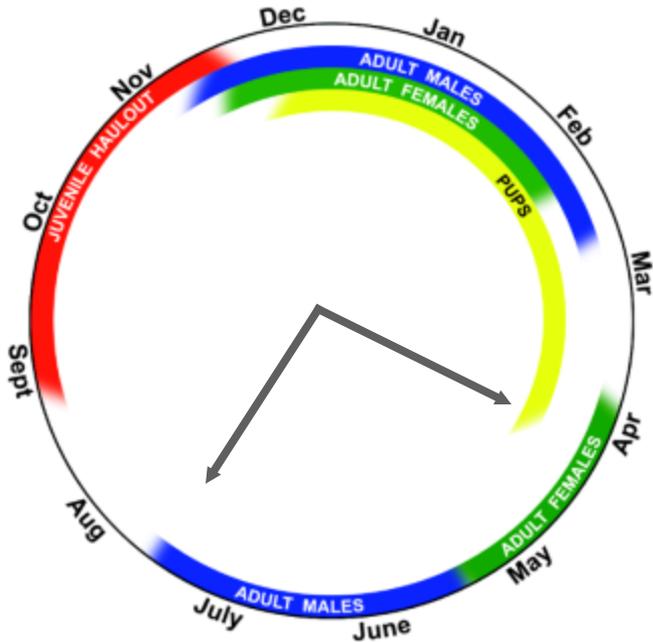


Photo by Scot Anderson

Year in the Life of an Elephant Seal *Juvenile Haul Out*

- September through November
- Males play fighting

