

National Park Service



2018 Elephant Seal Breeding Season Update March 9, 2018



News this week:

- Mating activity will soon come to an end with only 14 cows left on the beaches in Point Reyes as of Wednesday March 7.
- Many adult and sub-adult males remain at the colonies.
- Drakes beach closure will end on March 15.

Above: A sub-adult male in the surf off of Drakes Beach.

Center: A shiny, molted, and vocal weaned pup.

Top Left: A view of the Point Reyes Headlands colony from the water.

Bottom Left: A male seal sleeps under a cliff near Chimney Rock.

Photos by M. Cox. NMFS Permit No. 17152-00

New Arrivals at Visitor Center

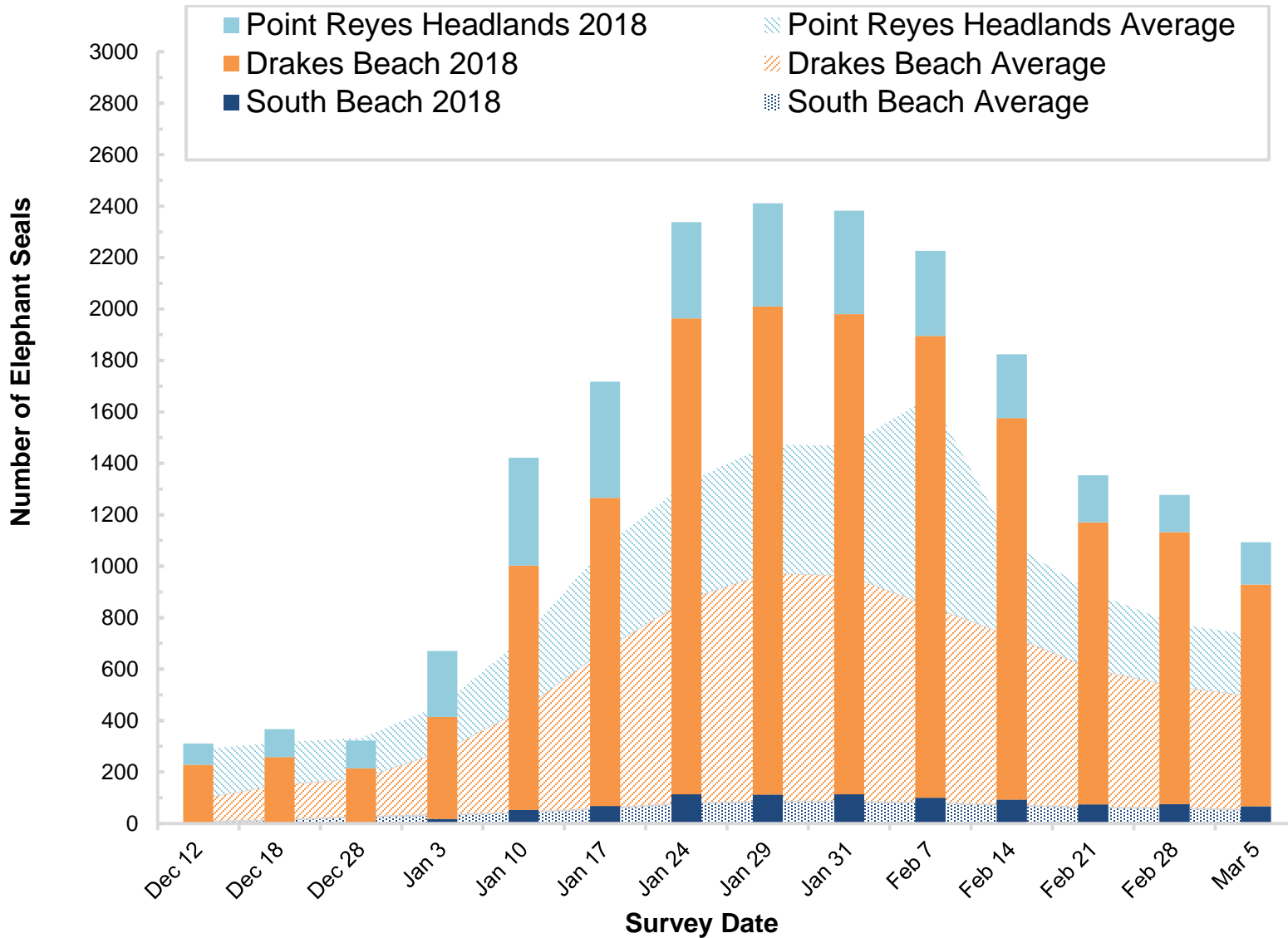


Normally a hot spot for sub-adult males, the area in front of the Ken Patrick Visitor Center seems to be attracting weaned pups as well. These pups were most likely born in the closure on Drakes Beach, but relocated as they matured and began to explore their surroundings. Some of the trails in front of the visitor center have been temporarily blocked off. We hope visitors will: use alternate trails, keep their distance from all seals, and remember that even though pups look adorable, they are not fond of humans approaching too closely.

Above: A weaned pup naps on the beach in front of the visitor center.

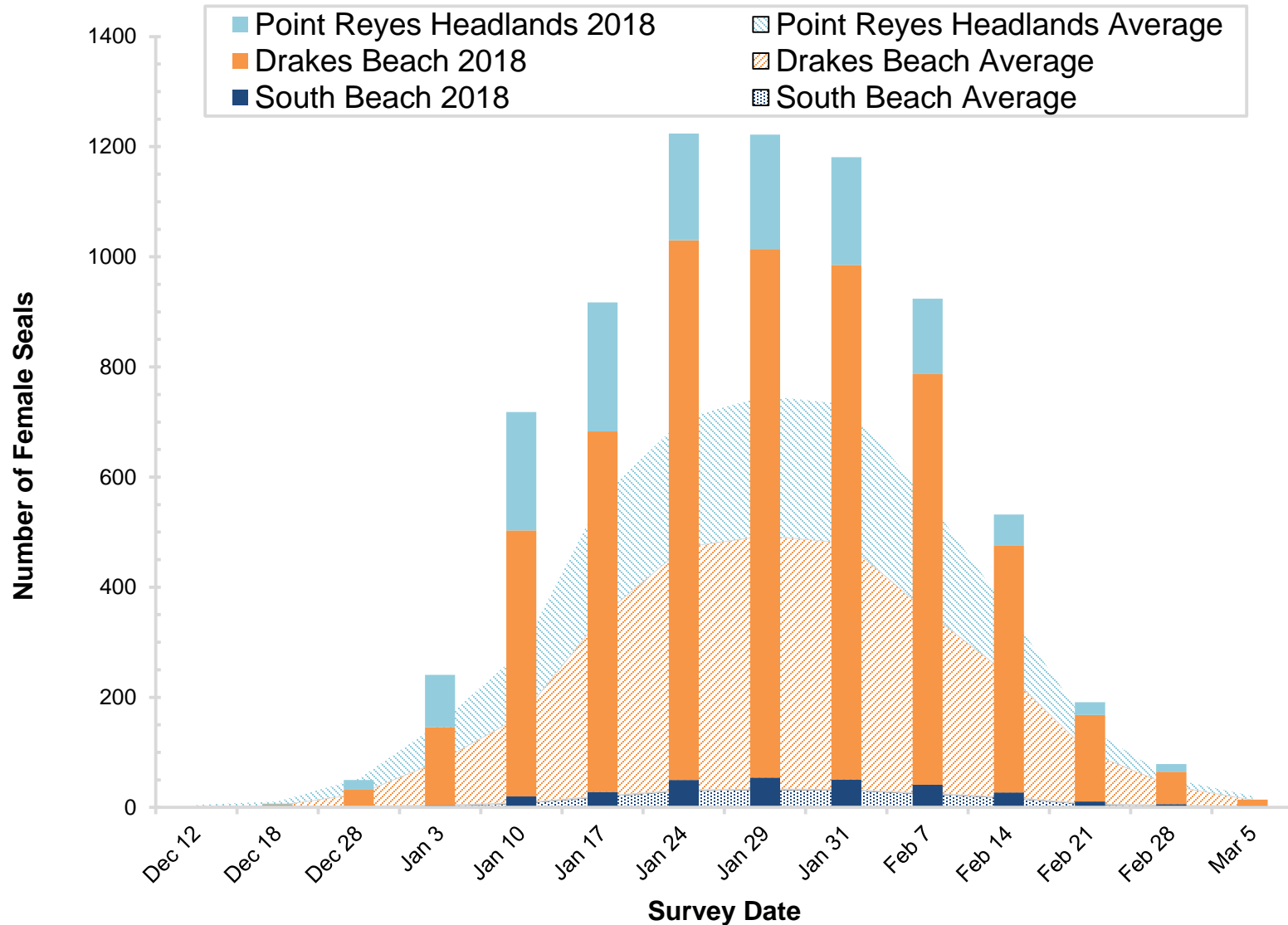
Northern Elephant Seals at Point Reyes National Seashore

Total 2018 Seal Count vs. 2005-2017 Total Seal Average



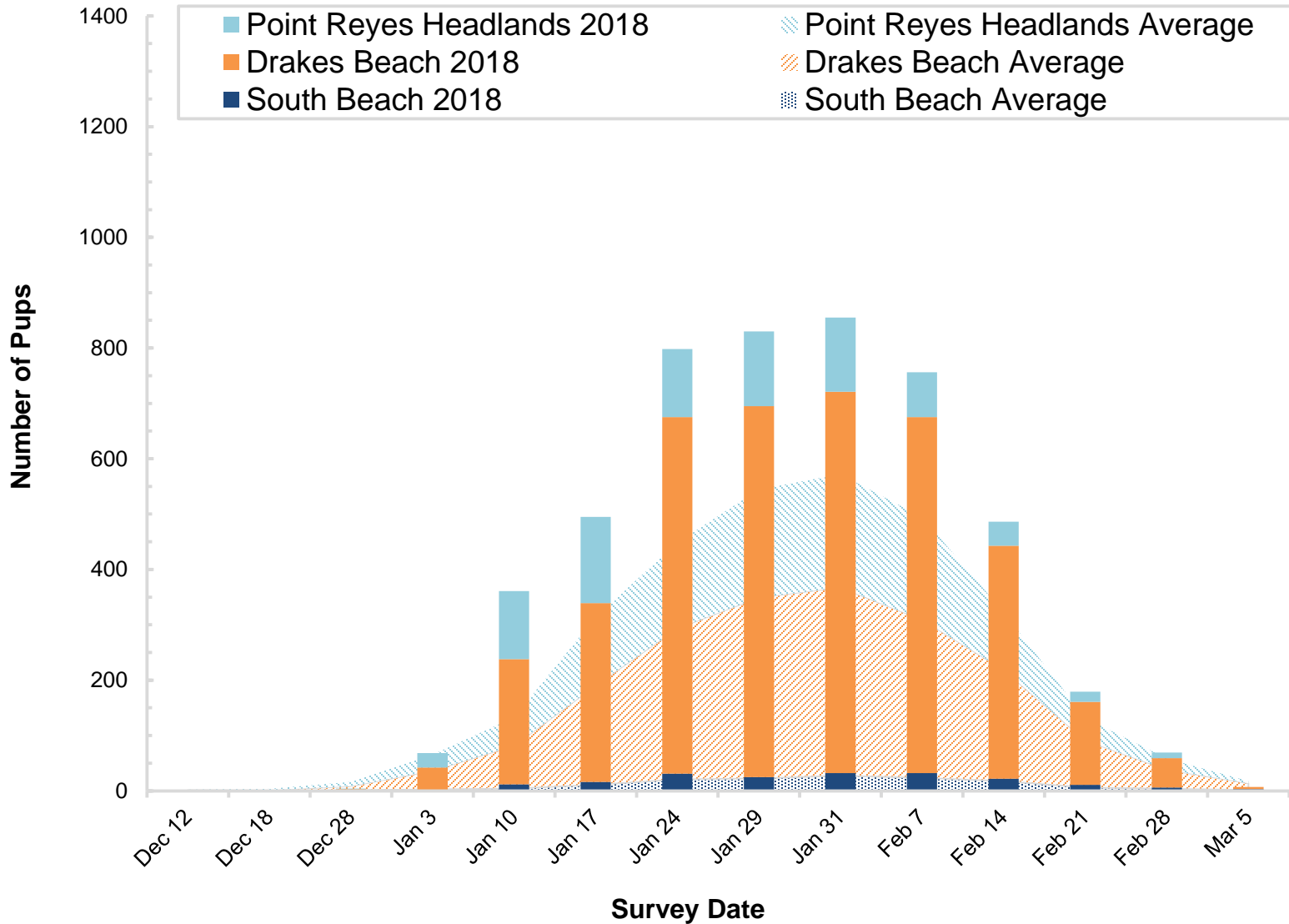
Northern Elephant Seals at Point Reyes National Seashore

Total 2018 Female Count vs. 2005-2017 Female Average



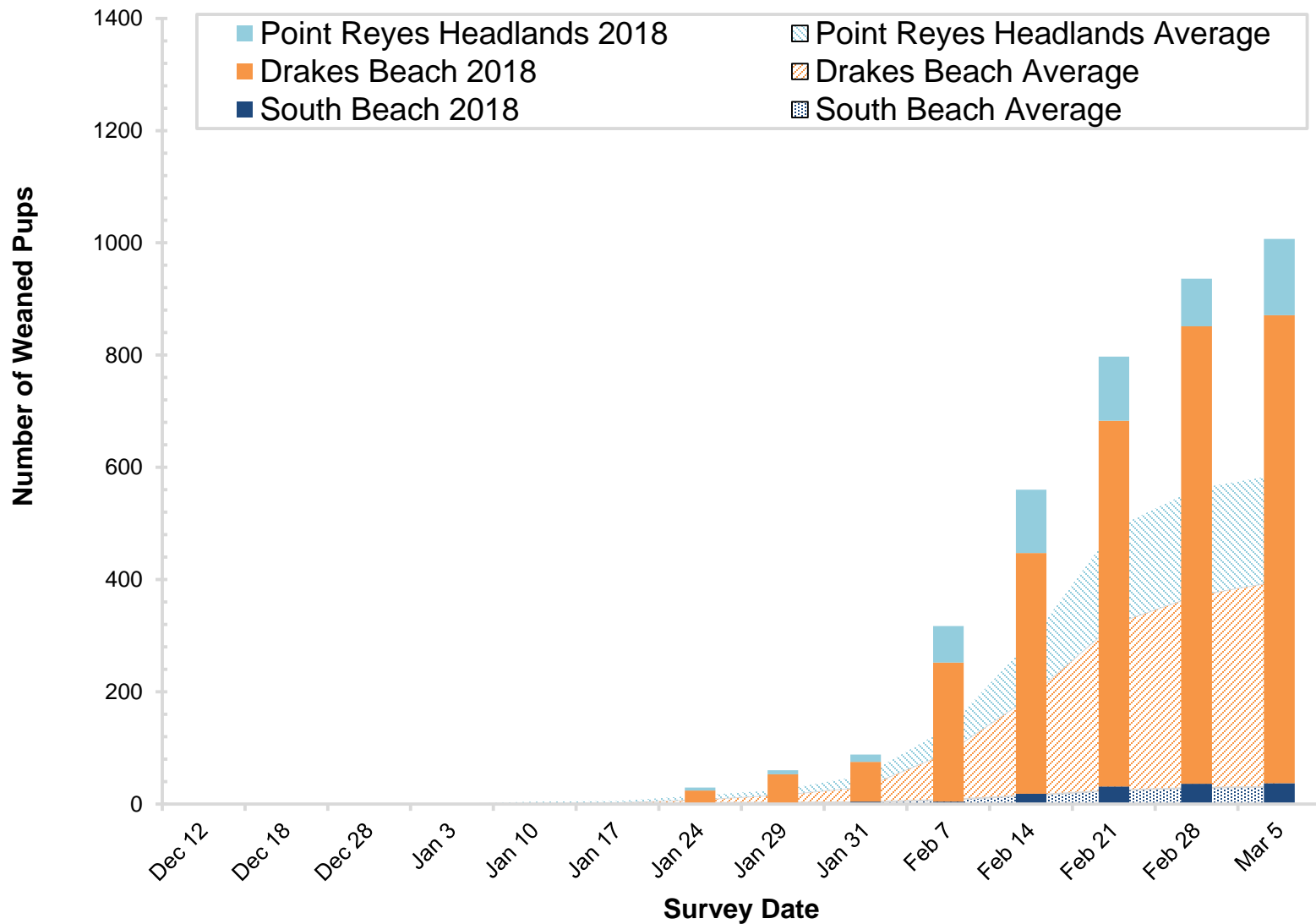
Northern Elephant Seals at Point Reyes National Seashore

Total 2018 Pup Count vs. 2005-2017 Pup Average



Northern Elephant Seals at Point Reyes National Seashore

Total 2018 Weaned Pup Count vs. 2005-2017 Weaned Pup Average



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