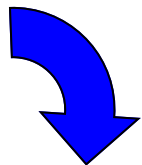


The Three Seasons



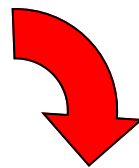
FALL: Juvenile Haul-Out

AUGUST First of the juveniles haul out to begin fall rest.

SEPTEMBER Young of the year and juveniles haul out to rest. Numbers tend to be low. Seals will engage in social behaviors. Each animal hauls out for about one month.

OCTOBER The young of the year and juveniles haul out to rest. Numbers peak at the beginning of the month. We start to see straggler sub-adult males.

NOVEMBER More sub-adult males haul out. Mature males begin arriving at the end of the month. Male dominance displays are seen.



WINTER: Pupping & Breeding

DECEMBER Bulls continue to return throughout the month. The first of the pregnant females arrive around the first week. The first birth usually occurs mid-month. Fighting between the males continues as the dominance hierarchy is established. Some juveniles are still around.

JANUARY Pregnant females continue to arrive. Harems are clearly formed. Peak of births usually occur in the last half of the month. The first pups are weaned around the middle of the month.

FEBRUARY The last of the pregnant females arrive. Births continue throughout the month. Peak of the mating is mid-month. Displays and fighting among the males increase as females go into estrus. More weaners are seen as females leave—already pregnant with next year's pup.

MARCH The last of the adult seals that participated in the breeding season leave. Majority of the weaned pups teach themselves how to swim.

APRIL The weaners depart for their first trip to sea.



SPRING & SUMMER: Molt

MARCH The first of the females and juveniles arrive to molt.

APRIL Females and juveniles continue to return to molt. Their average stay is four to six weeks.

MAY Females and juveniles molt. All weaners have left to go to sea. The first of the sub-adult males is seen arriving to molt.

JUNE Females and juveniles have left the beach, returning to sea to feed. Sub-adult males continue to return to molt. By the end of the month they make up the majority of the seals on the beach. The numbers of seals on the beach drops drastically.

JULY Sub-adult males and adult males arrive to molt. The numbers on the beach continue to drop.

AUGUST Last of males molt. First of the juveniles haul out to begin fall rest.

Northern Elephant Seals at the Piedras Blancas Rookery