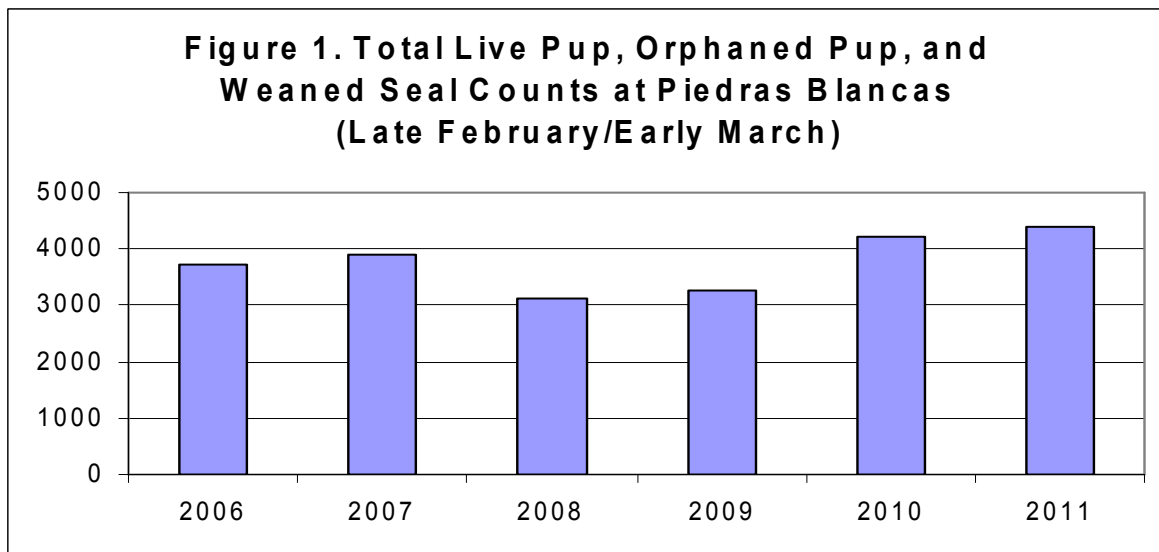
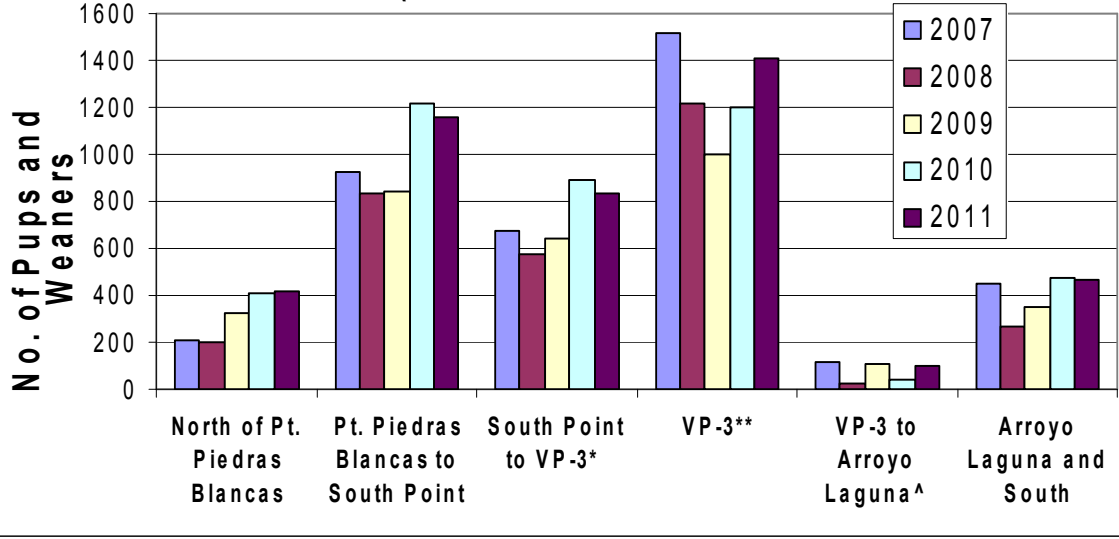


The numbers are in for the 2011 breeding season of northern elephant seals at the Piedras Blancas rookery. The total number of live pups, weaners (weaned pups), and orphaned pups at the end of the 2011 season was approximately 4400 seals, up 4% from the 2010 season (Figure 1). Based on a rough estimate of the actual number of births this year, it appears that pre-weaning mortality was fairly low (about 5%). Most of the increase seen in living young seals this year is due to higher numbers counted in and around VP-3 (Figure 2). Four of the 5 other areas shown in this graph had about the same number of surviving pups or were down slightly. The numbers in areas at both ends of the breeding colony were very similar to last year. Again this year there was no expansion along the coast of the breeding range.

K. Karako provided numbers for the VP-3 area.



**Figure 2. Live Pup and Weaner Counts at Piedras Blancas, By Area**  
(Late February/Early March)



\* does not include VP-3

\*\* includes cove just south of dunes

^ does not include beach at Arroyo Laguna