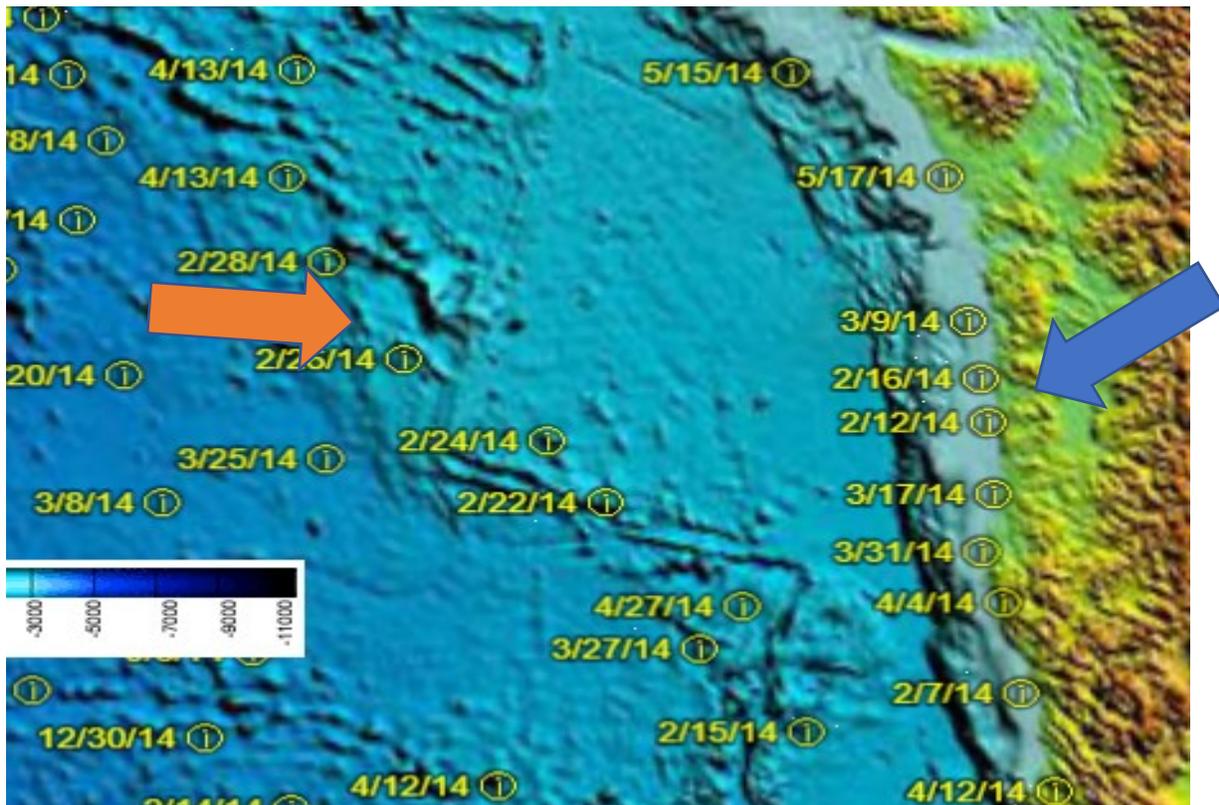


Northern Elephant Seal (133771) Analysis Journal

The Northern Elephant Seal does not have name but a number 133771 so I named my seal Lou Seal from the Columbus Clippers baseball team mascot. Here are some of my observations of Lou seal's travels during 2014.

My observations of Lou Seal on the bathymetry map. Lou seal data starts on February 7, 2014 and Lou seal is off the coast of California. Lou Seal's first data point he is 4,000 meters down in the ocean. Then Lou Seal starts moving north off the coast of California towards Washington State and Oregon. While he is moving north the bathymetry is changing to the range of 1,000 meters to 3,000 meters. There are sometimes when Lou Seal goes further out into the ocean during the months of February and March. The depths go from 1,500 meters to 3,000-5,000 meters. Then he heads back to areas where the depth is not as deep, He hangs out where it looks like the upper shelf of the continent then goes on land and back and forth.

Here is a picture of his travels in April and March.

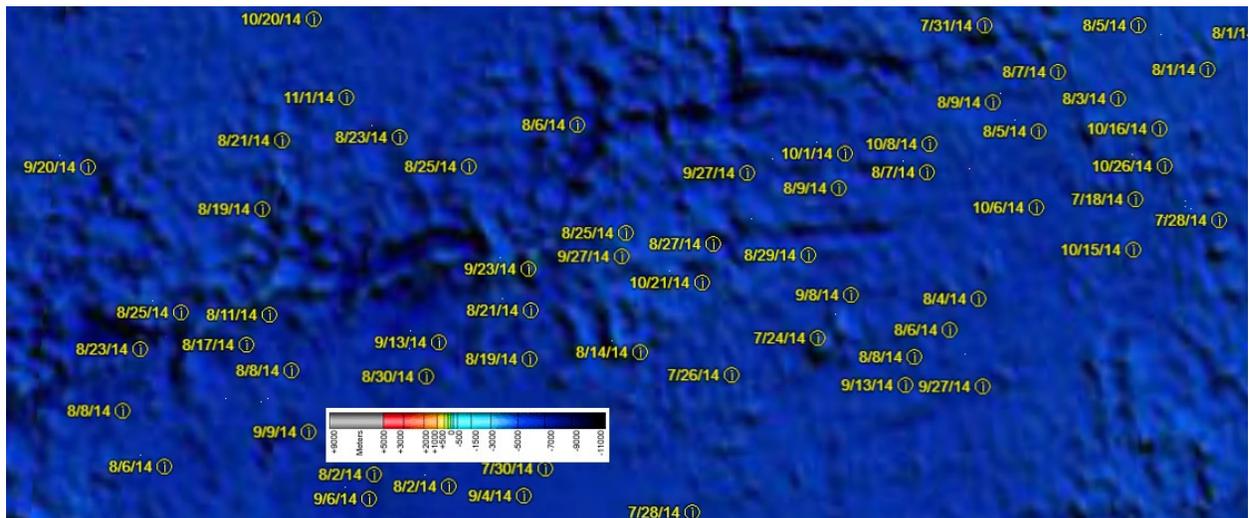


As you can see where the red arrow is pointing the depth is around 1500 and it looks like he is around mount range under water. Then if you look at the blue arrow it shows that Lou Seal is upper part of the continent where the depth is only around 500 meters or closer to the surface. I am thinking that Lou Seal is feeding during this time closer to the land.

In this second picture I feel like this is kind of weird, because Lou Seal travels all the way out into the ocean where the depths run 5000-7000 meters deep. I am not real sure way he travels all the way out there and comes back a couple days later. As you can see with the arrows, he starts off the coast then travels into deeper water and then goes back to less deep water. In one day, he travels out to deeper water hangs out then goes back. I am not real sure way he is doing that.



In the later months of the year Lou Seal travels further out into the ocean and I think he his going to warmer areas to feed. Looking at the Bathymetry imagery it looks likes the data shows he is at some small islands to either mate for searching for food during this time.



This image shows that Lou seal is traveling where the depths are greater than when he is closer to the west coast of California. I switched the imagery from bathymetry to phytoplankton to see if that might have something to do with Lou Seal traveling back and forth. In looking at the tracking I do feel like it is one of the reasons for him to travel to deeper water where small islands might be located. While looking at both maps it does look like his movements do go along with the phytoplankton.

Here is the map of the phytoplankton.

