

## Supplemental methods

Animal handling methods, biollogger specifications, and calculation of arrival and departure dates are described in Robinson, et al.<sup>1</sup> Satellite tracking data were filtered and processed using the R package `crawl`<sup>2,3</sup> to eliminate inaccurate location points and interpolate between locations. The resulting latitude and longitude estimates were used to calculate great circle distance (in kilometers) from the Año Nuevo breeding beach (37.1083°N, 122.3366°W) for each time-latitude-longitude point in the MATLAB function `distance()`. Across all seals, foraging trip timing (mean  $\pm$  SD day-of-year) was as follows: departure  $157 \pm 9$ , turnaround  $287 \pm 40$ , and arrival  $15 \pm 8$  (Figure 1C). Therefore, outbound trip durations were  $130 \pm 41$  days, and inbound trip durations were  $93 \pm 41$  days. Turnaround dates were calculated using Gaussian kernels with standard deviation 6 hours using custom functions in R. Code and data for a subset of animals are available on Zenodo<sup>4</sup> (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5777504>). Drift rate dates were calculated using a custom MATLAB code based on kernel density estimation of fine-scale changes in depth over time (drift rate, measured in meters/sec).<sup>5</sup> Dates are presented as day-of-year relative to parturition date, with negative numbers indicating dates before pupping. All analyses were carried out in R v4.0.2. A linear mixed-effects model of turnaround date (relative to pupping date) as a function of turnaround distance and buoyancy change date was run in the package `lme4`<sup>6</sup> after scaling and centering the continuous variables and including individual as a random effect.

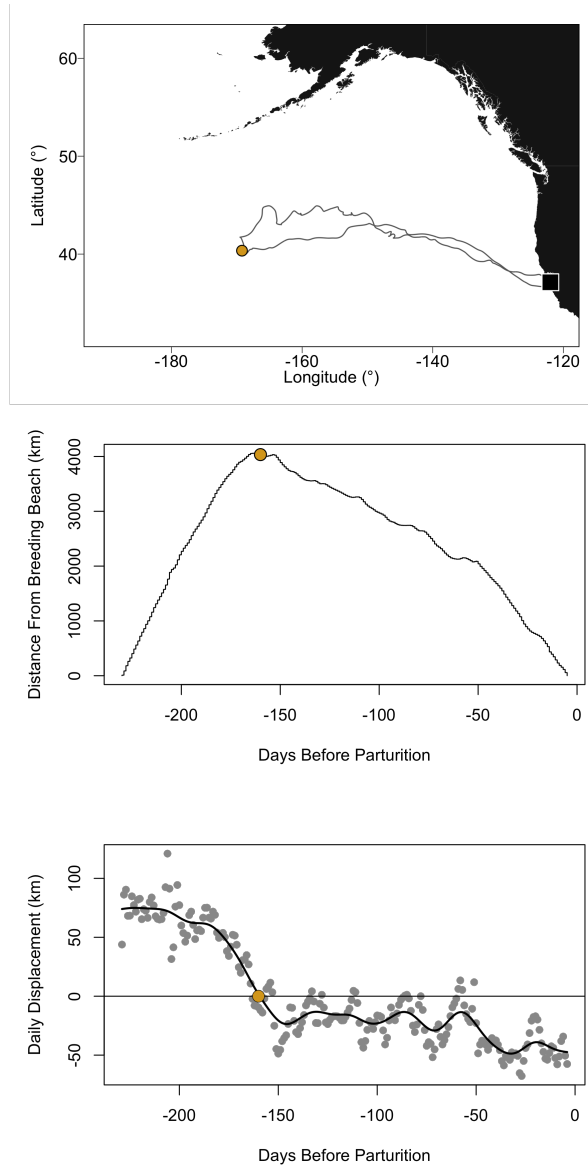


Figure S1: Tracking data (top), distance traveled from the breeding beach (middle), and daily displacement from the breeding beach (bottom) for a representative seal (#2007048). Gold points indicate turnaround locations in all panels

## References

1. Robinson, P.W., Costa, D.P., Crocker, D.E., Gallo-Reynoso, J.P., Champagne, C.D., Fowler, M.A., Goetsch, C., Goetz, K.T., Hassrick, J.L., Hückstädt, L.A., et al. (2012). Foraging Behavior and Success of a Mesopelagic Predator in the Northeast Pacific Ocean: Insights from a Data-Rich Species, the Northern Elephant Seal. *PLoS ONE* 7, e36728.
2. Johnson, D.S., London, J.M., Lea, M.-A., and Durban, J.W. (2008). Continuous-time correlated random walk model for animal telemetry data. *Ecology* 89, 1208–1215.

3. Johnson, D., Josh M. London (NOAA), and Kenady (2016). Crawl: V2.0.
4. Beltran, R.S., Yuen, A.L., Condit, R., Robinson, P.W., Czapanskiy, M.F., Crocker, D.E., and Costa, D.P. (2021). FlukeAndFeather/turnaround: Initial release (Zenodo).
5. Robinson, P.W., Simmons, S.E., Crocker, D.E., and Costa, D.P. (2010). Measurements of foraging success in a highly pelagic marine predator, the northern elephant seal. *Journal of Animal Ecology* 79, 1146–1156.
6. Bates, D., Mächler, M., Bolker, B., and Walker, S. (2015). Fitting Linear Mixed-Effects Models Using lme4. *Journal of Statistical Software* 67.