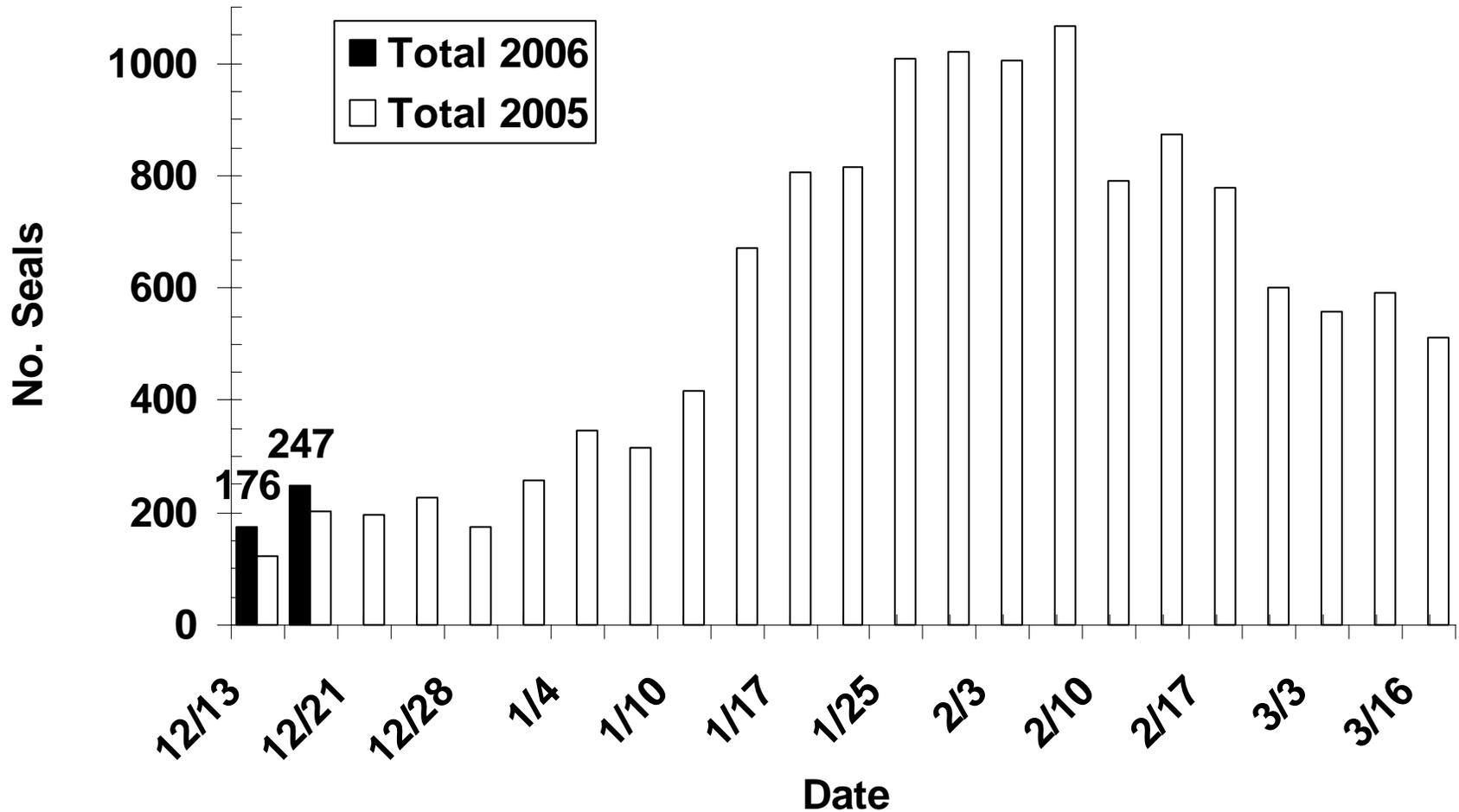
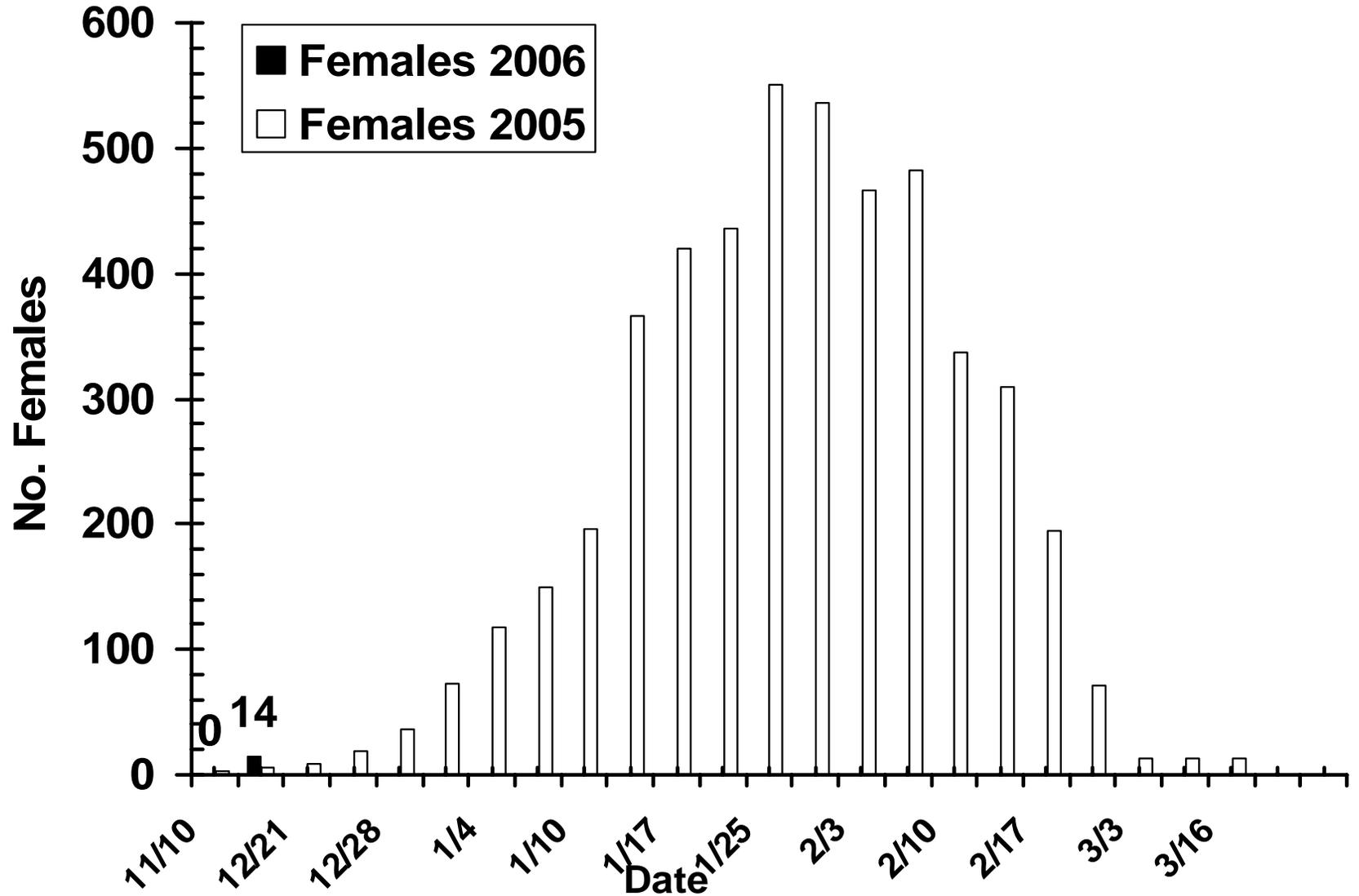


The 2005/2006 breeding season has begun for the northern elephant seal colony located at Point Reyes National Seashore. The total number of elephant seals located within the headlands is now nearing 250 individuals. As of December 16th, 2005, 6% (14 of the total 246 animals) have been identified as females. Three females have given birth and the first pups of the season were observed at the Main Colony of the Point Reyes Headlands on Friday, December 16th. For comparison, the first pup of last year's breeding season was observed on December 15, 2004 at the Main Colony. The number of females and pups on the beaches should continue to increase until the end of January which is when the peak of births historically occurs.

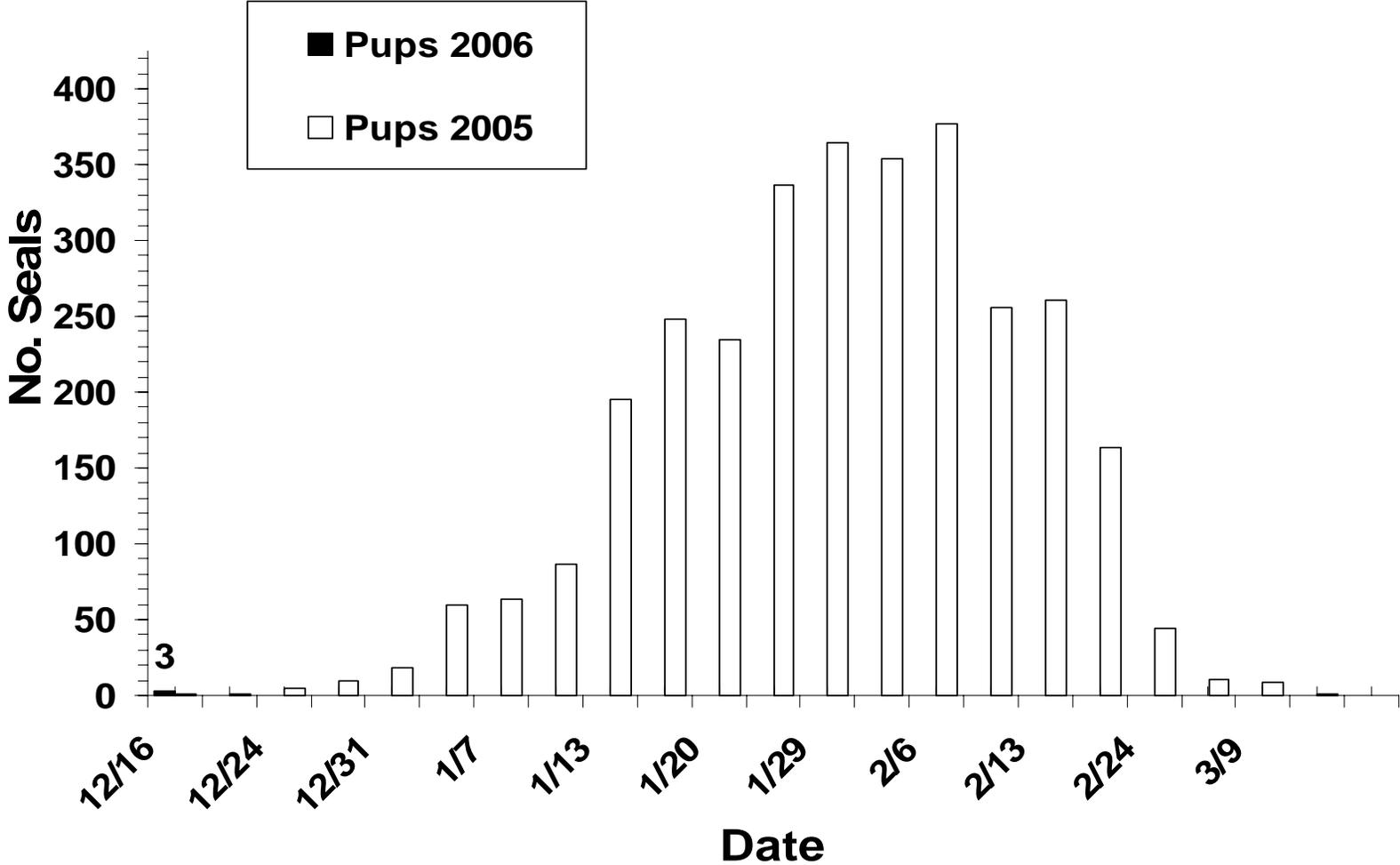
NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEALS at POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE Total Seals Counts



NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEALS at POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE Female Counts



NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEALS at POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE Pup Counts



NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEALS at POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE Total Seals at Drakes Beach

