



Sea Otter Conservation Workshop XIV

March 21–23, 2025

Conference Agenda



Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment



AGENDA

Time	Presenter/moderator	Title
Day 1: March 21		
1:30pm	Bob Davidson, Nora Nickum, Shawn Larson, Amy Olsen	Welcome
SESSION 1 Management (Moderator: Jim Bodkin)		
1:40pm	Joseph Tomoleoni and Julie Yee	Southern sea otter census
2pm	Dyanna Lambourn and Casey Clark	Washington northern sea otters: minimum population counts and mortality summaries 2023–24
2:15pm	Benjamin Weitzman and Paul Schuette	Northern sea otter conservation and co-stewardship in Alaska
2:35pm	Raven Cunningham and Hanna Hellen	Chugach Imaq Initiative
2:50pm	Shawn Larson	Updates on northern and Russian sea otters populations
3pm		QUESTIONS
SESSION 2 Monitoring (Moderator: Jessica Fujii)		
3:05pm	Neha Acharya-Patel	Comparison of DNA extraction methods for detecting the sea otter (<i>Enhydra lutris</i>) in marine sediment
3:15pm	Michelle Staedler and Julie Yee	Quantifying southern sea otter reactions to a quadcopter drone in central California
3:25pm	Jen Mannas	WDFW sea otter conservation planning updates
3:40pm		QUESTIONS
3:45pm BREAK		
SESSION 3 Ecology (Moderator: Carter Johnson)		
4:05pm	Maria Lopez Neri	Evaluating the influence of a sea otter exclusion ring in the California spiny lobster fishery: implications for California spiny lobster catch and bycatch
4:20pm	Teri Nicholson	Reliable estimation of sea otter haul out behavior from time-depth recorders
4:35pm	Zachary Randell	A low-cost, open-source framework for standardized ROV photo surveys within kelp forests
4:50pm	Joshua Smith	Keystone interdependence: Sea star loss in the rocky intertidal leads to mussel expansion and sea otter population responses



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5:05pm	Emma A. Elliott Smith	Forecasting sea otter recolonization: insights from isotopic analysis of modern and zooarchaeological populations
5:20pm	Taylor White	Ways of knowing sea otter and abalone dynamics in Alaska communities
5:35pm		QUESTIONS
SESSION 4 Sea Otter Conservation II (Moderator: Shawn Larson)		
5:40pm	Jim Bodkin	Introduction to Sea Otter Conservation Volume 2
5:50pm	Benjamin Weitzman	Chapter 4: Sea otters in mixed sediment habitats
6:05pm	Tim Tinker	Chapter 6: A catastrophic and unintended experiment: revising our understanding of sea otters and their social and ecological importance based on a system in transition
6:20pm	Julie Yee	Chapter 9: What drives sea otter population growth and recovery: a large-scale perspective
6:30pm	Shawn Larson	Chapter 10: Insights from molecular methods into past and present sea otter populations
6:40pm		QUESTIONS
6:45pm ADJOURN FOR KEYNOTE DINNER 7-9pm		
	Jane Bacchieri	The Elakha Alliance: building on partnerships to restore sea otters to Oregon

Time	Presenter/moderator	Title
Day 2: March 22		
SESSION 5 Husbandry (Moderator: Amy Olsen)		
9am	Jessica Fujii	Monterey Bay Aquarium rehab and surrogacy update
9:10am	Brian Rokeach and Conor Fay	Flying six very furry friends a far, far way: innovating a Sea Otter Transport Unit (SOTU) to mitigate challenges faced during long distance transport
9:30am	John Stewart	Sea World San Diego otter program and transport updates



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9:45am	Ana Velasquez	Assessing short-term effects of internal tag implantation in sea otters
9:55am	Julie Carpenter and Brett Long	AZA sea otter program and studbook updates
10:05am	Matt O'Connor	Voluntary blood sample collection from the hind leg digital veins
10:10am	Padraig Duignan	Leptospirosis in southern sea otters (<i>Enhydra lutris nereis</i>)
10:20am		QUESTIONS
10:30am Panel and roundtable discussion: Help! I need an otter for my zoo or aquarium. What's the process and who do I talk to?		
10:50am BREAK		
SESSION 6 Reintroductions (Moderator: Jane Bacchieri)		
11:10am		Animal professionals
11:20am	Robert Bailey	Revisiting Oregon's 1970s translocations
11:40am	Andrew Johnson	A path to southern sea otter recovery: toward the implementation of the conceptual framework
11:55am	Kyle Motley	Building bridges: engaging Oregon's fishing communities in sea otter reintroduction
12:10pm	Jessica Fujii and Tim Tinker	Updating the California Oregon sea otter recovery model
12:40pm		QUESTIONS
12:45pm LUNCH and DEIJ LISTENING SESSION (bring your own lunch)		
SESSION 7 Conservation/Advocacy (Moderator: Andrew Johnson)		
2:15pm	Amy Olsen	DEIJ update
2:25pm	Ken Collins	Illuminating relationships in the nearshore
2:40pm	Dakota Peebler	Surfers and sea otters: exploring a unique relationship
2:55pm	Shawn Larson	Sea otter (<i>Enhydra Lutris</i>) conservation legacy and potential for recovery, the IUCN green status
3:05pm	Heather Barrett	Sea otter recovery and community engagement: a look into public perception of reintroduction
3:20pm	Gena Bentall	Community active wildlife stewards: engaging California central coast businesses in sea otter conservation
3:35pm	Charles Knowles and Paul Thomson	Catalyzing sea otter recovery: introducing the Sea Otter Fund
3:50pm	Nicole Duplaix	The IUCN otter specialist group
4pm		QUESTIONS
4:05pm BREAK		



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SESSION 8 Rescue/Rehabilitation (Moderator: Randall Davis)		
4:25pm	Aliah Meza	Impacts of apprenticeship in sea otter conservation
4:35pm	Montana McLeod	Planning updates from the WDFW Oil Spill Team
4:40pm		QUESTIONS
4:50pm Panel and roundtable discussion: Who can respond to stranded sea otters? Permits, capacity, etc., for CA, OR, WA, BC and AK.		
5:30pm ADJOURN FOR HAPPY HOUR at Pub 70 Hosted by the Sea Otter Fund 6-9pm		

Time	Presenter/moderator	Title
Day 3: March 23		
SESSION 9 Physiology (Moderator: Lindy McMorran)		
9am	Randall Davis	Lung morphology and physiological adaptations in sea otters support a resting mass specific metabolic rate three times higher than that of terrestrial mammals
9:15am	Natalie Hunter	Northern sea otters (<i>Enhydra lutris</i>) as indicators of changing mercury dynamics in Kachemak Bay
9:30am	Ashani Hangawatte	Nasopulmonary mites as potential vectors of <i>Streptococcus phocae</i> in southern sea otters: investigating their role in respiratory disease transmission
9:45am	Megan Moriarty	Population impacts of domoic acid exposure in southern sea otters: an increasing threat in a changing climate
10am	Matt O'Connor	Successful eradication of nasal mites (<i>Halarachne spp.</i>) in northern and southern sea otters (<i>Enhydra lutris kenyoni</i> and <i>Enhydra lutris nereis</i>) with oral milbemycin oxime and lufenuron (Sentinel®)
10:15am	Cara Field	Protozoal encephalitis in live-stranded southern sea otters: antemortem diagnosis, treatment and future directions
10:30am		QUESTIONS
10:35am BREAK		
SESSION 10 Diet (Moderator: Michelle Staedler)		



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11:05am	Carter Johnson	Sea otters decrease size and catch of southeast Alaska's crab species
11:20am	Leilani Konrad	Sea otter foraging at incipient kelp forests as a natural ecosystem recovery mechanism
11:35am	Ron Eby	Green crabs: breakfast of champions
11:50am	Samantha Hamilton	Sea Otter (<i>Enhydra lutris lutris</i>) Foraging Ecology at Cape Kiritappu, Hokkaido, Japan
Noon	Amy Olsen	A northern sea otter foraging analysis in Washington state
12:15pm		QUESTIONS
12:20pm	Shawn Larson and Amy Olsen	CLOSING REMARKS
12:30pm ADJOURN		