

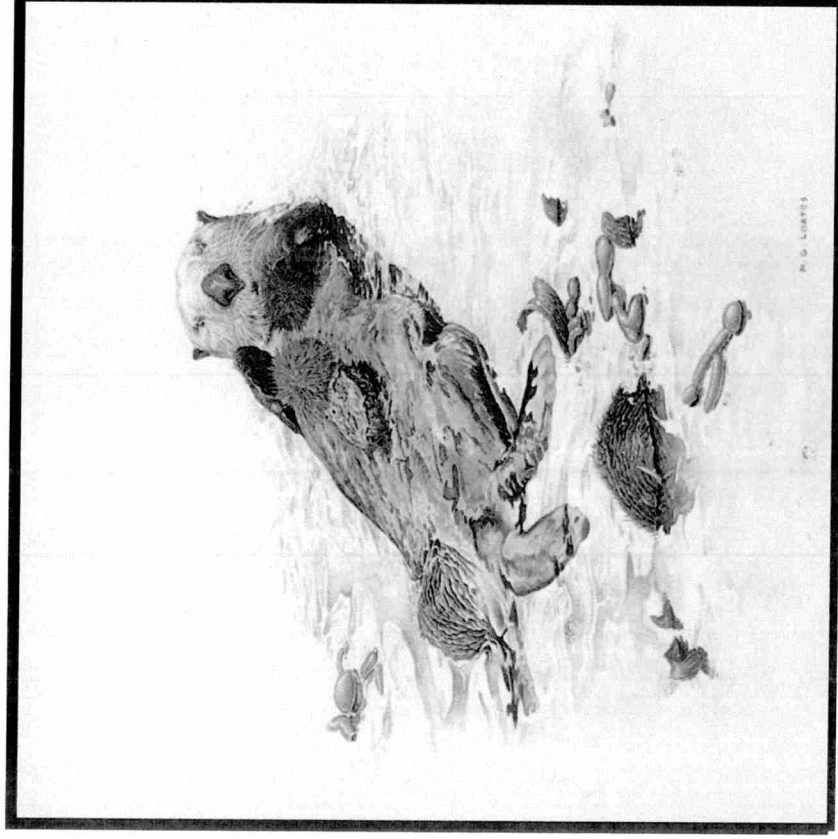
Recolonization, prey selection and resource competition by sea otters, *Enhydra lutris*, in southern southeast Alaska.



PETERSBURG MARINE
MAMMAL CENTER



PVOA



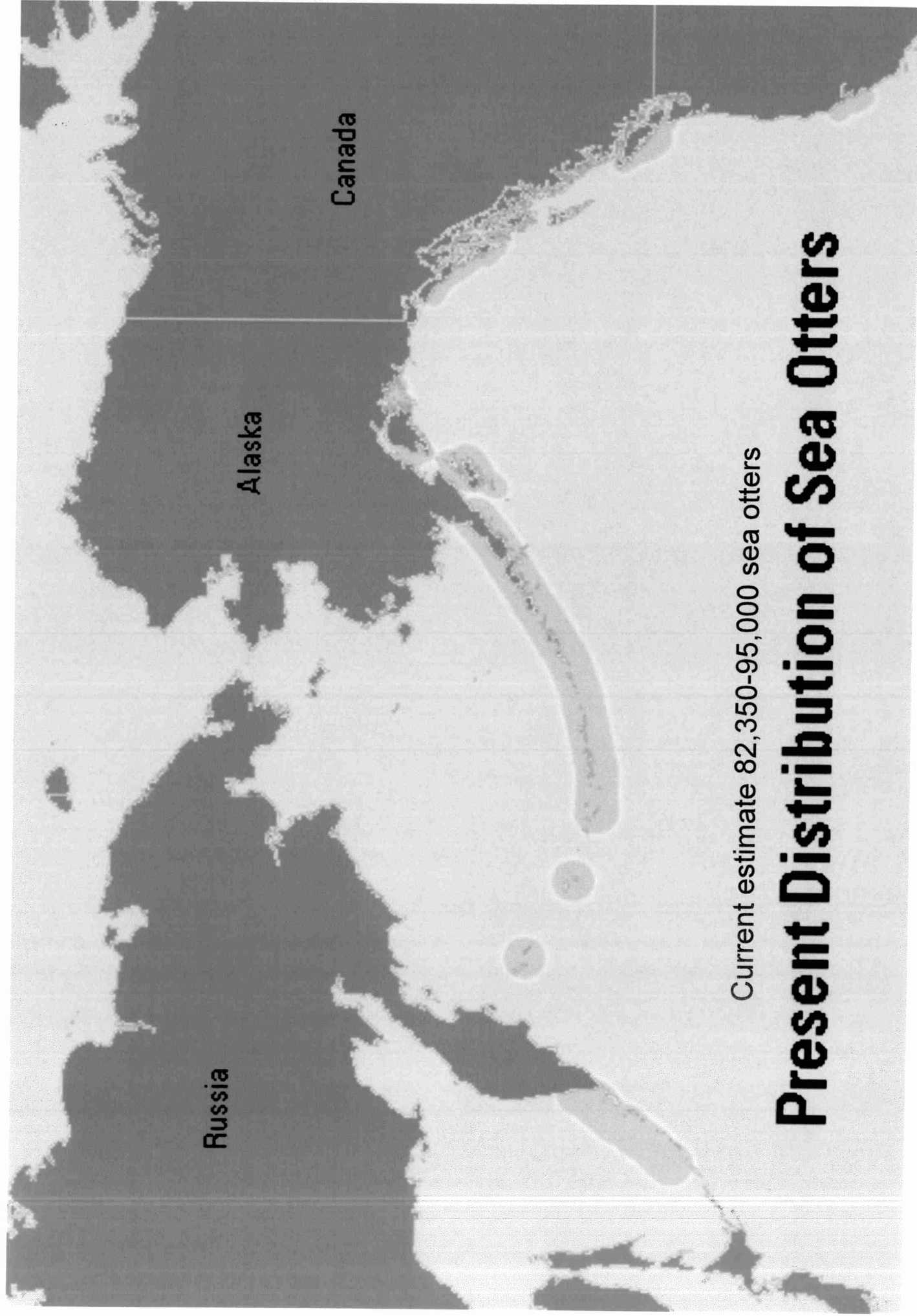
Zac Hoyt, PhD student, UAF

Verena Gill, Wildlife Biologist, USFWS

Ginny Eckert, Professor, UAF

Sunny Rice, Marine Advisory Agent, UAF

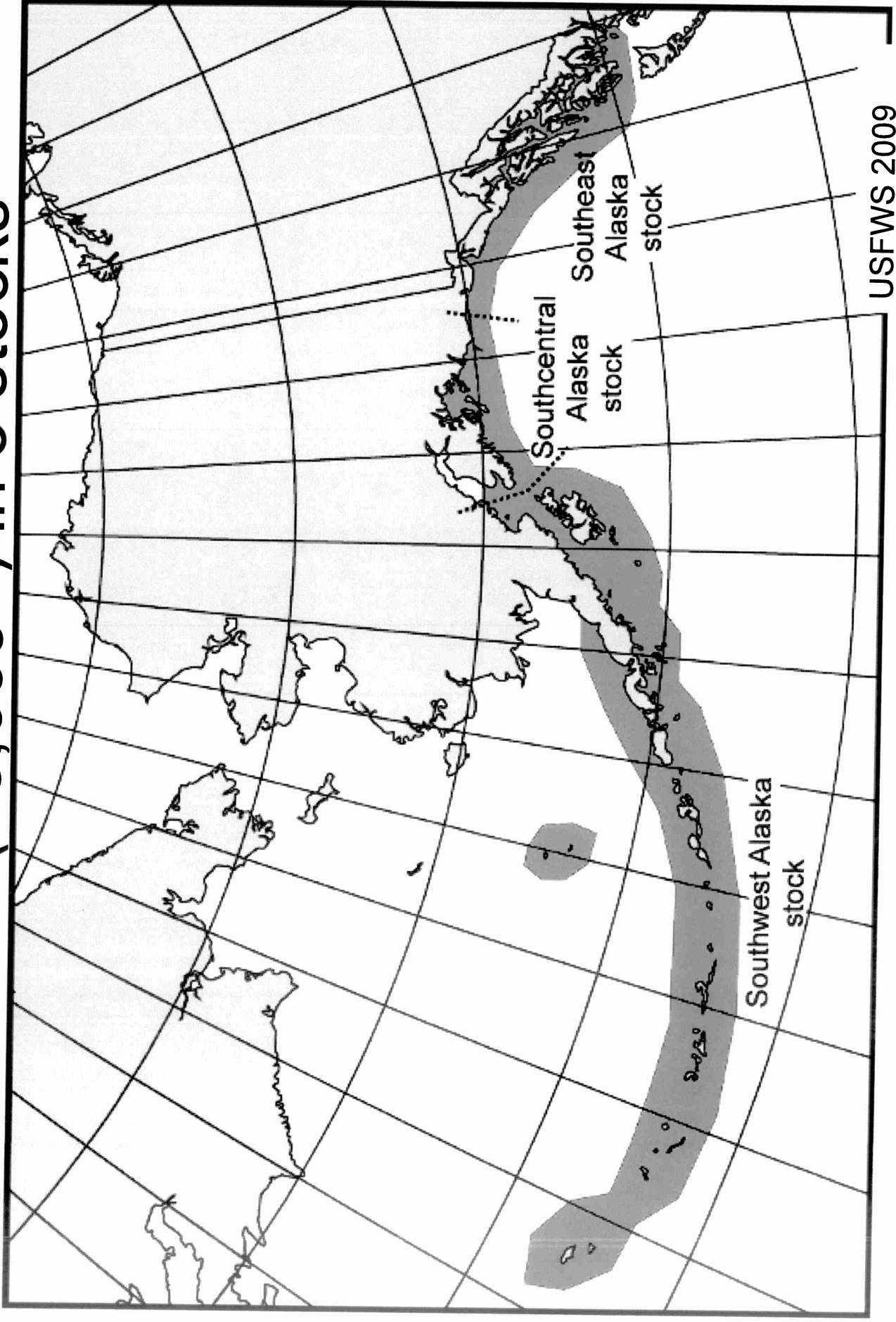




Current estimate 82,350-95,000 sea otters

Present Distribution of Sea Otters

Alaska (73,000+) in 3 stocks



1960's Release

Maurelle Islands

51 otters

Barrier Islands

55 otters

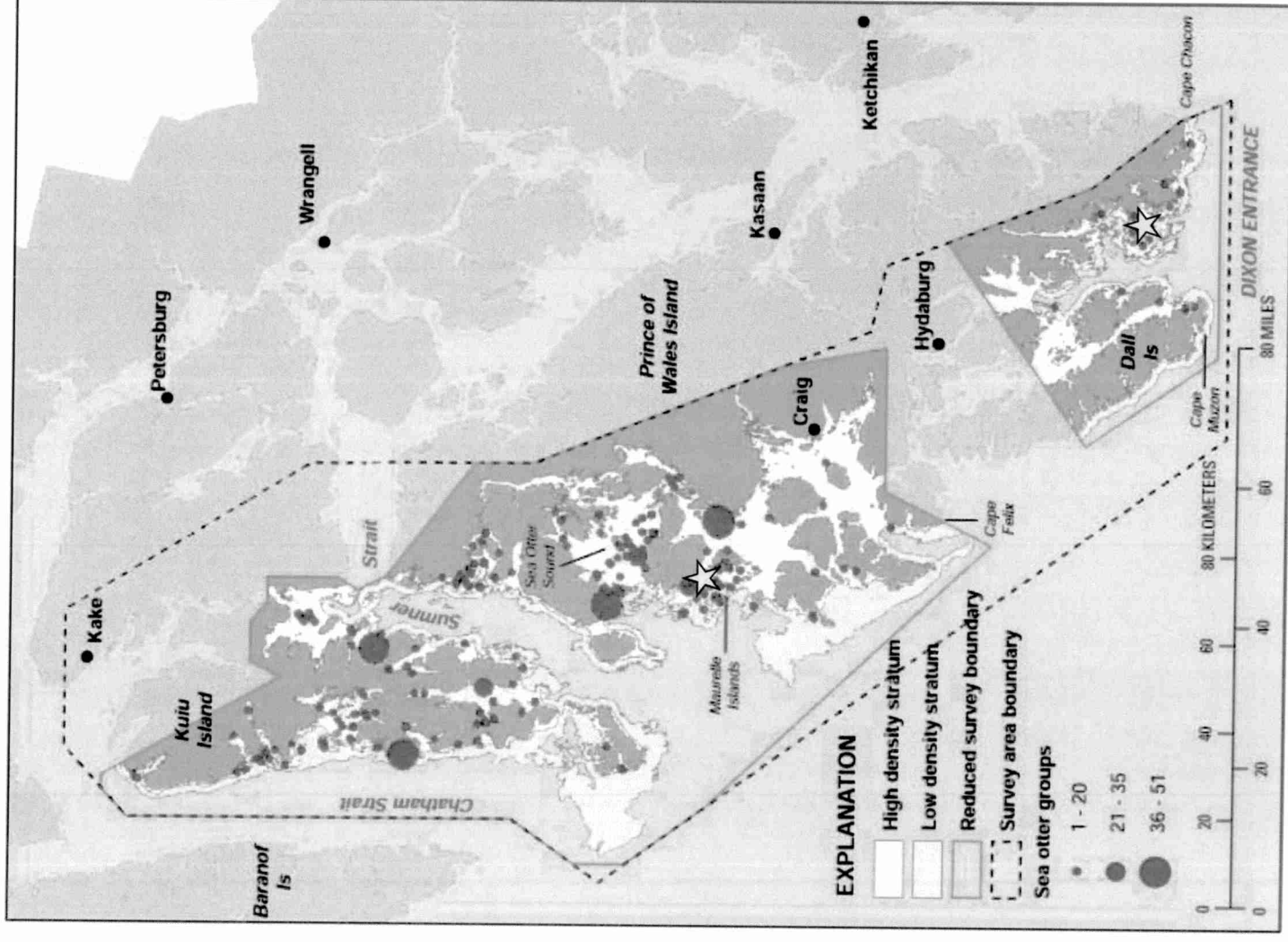
2003 Population

- Southern portion (2003) estimated at 5,845 otters

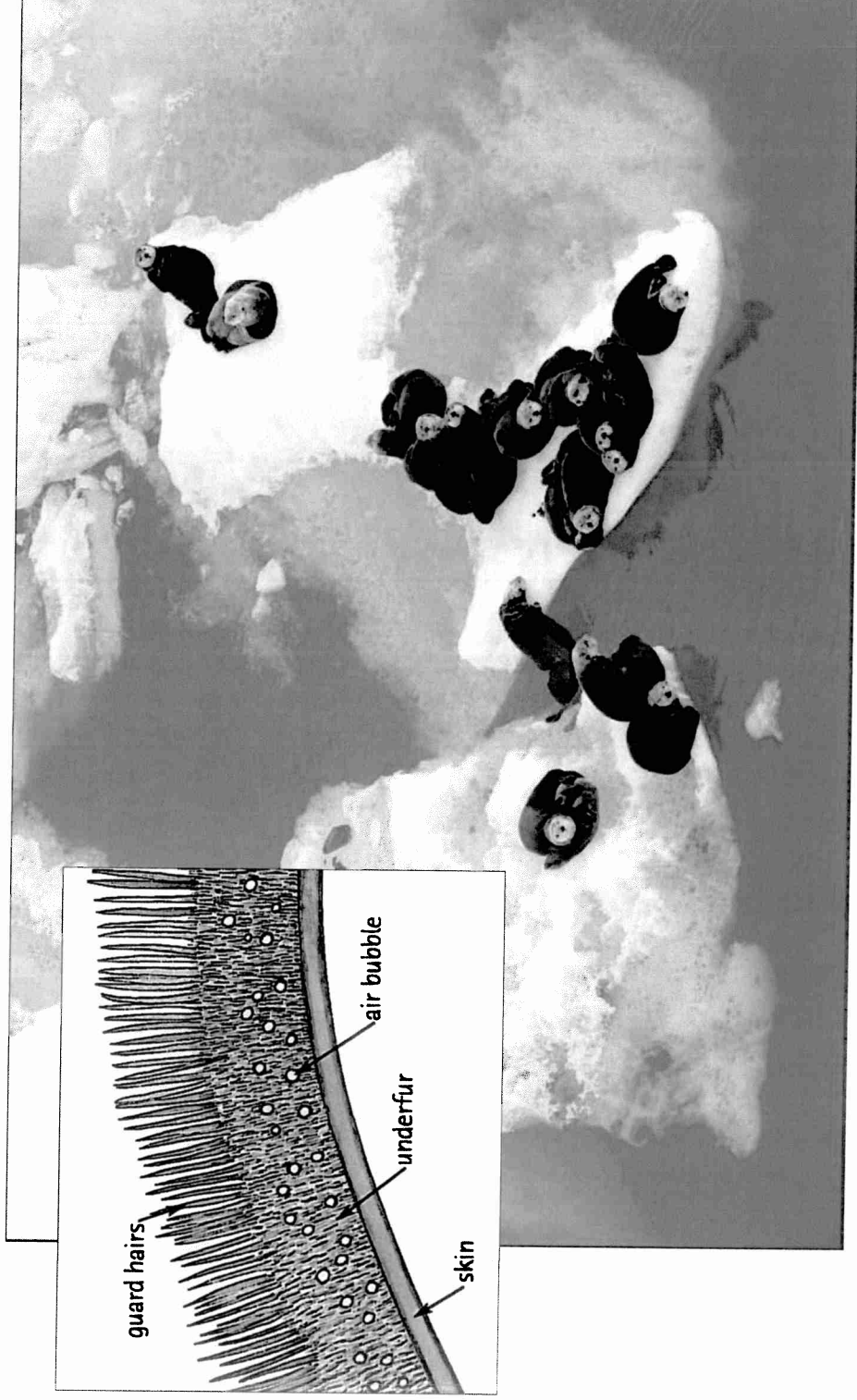
▪SE = 821

- SE AK

Esslinger and Bodkin 2009



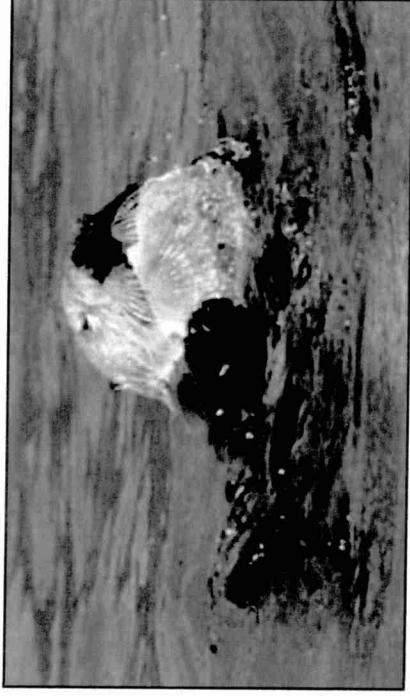
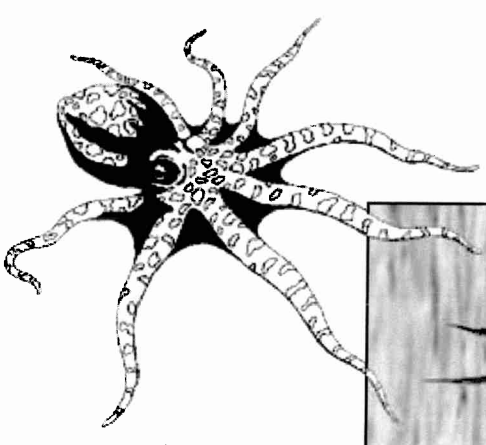
The only marine mammals without blubber



Sea otters have a high metabolism



The sea otter diet is
extremely diverse

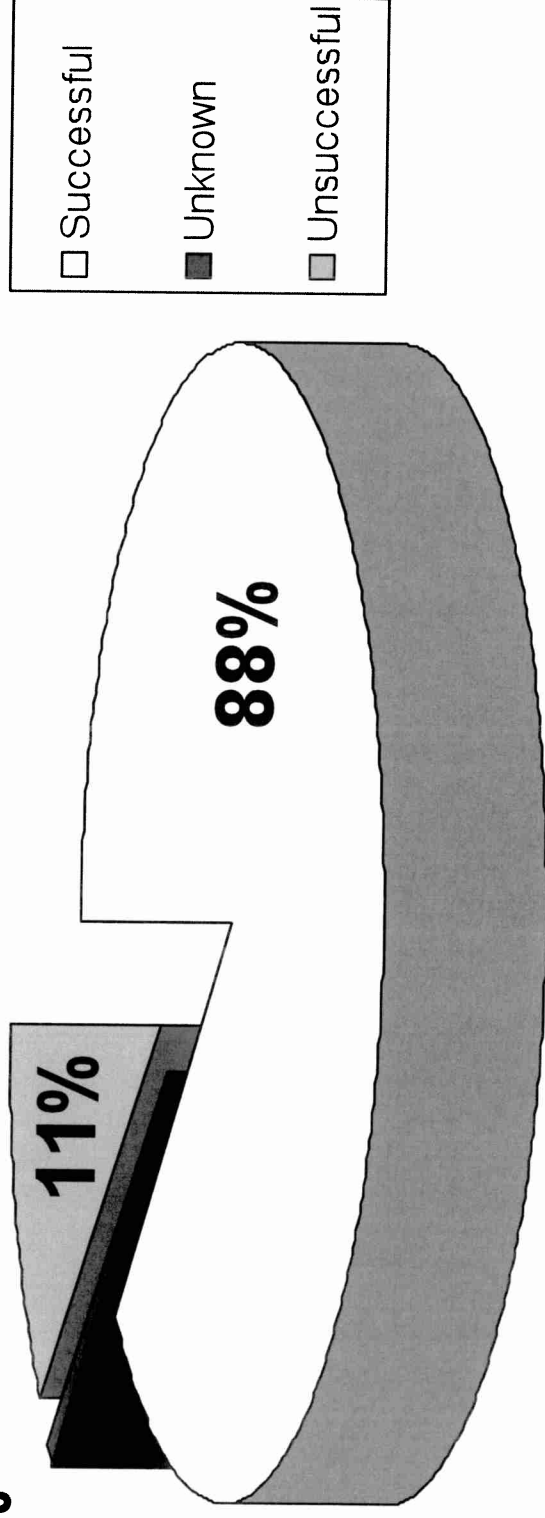


Specialists and generalists. High metabolic rate so can eat up to 23% of body weight

Results

Otter foraging success

1%

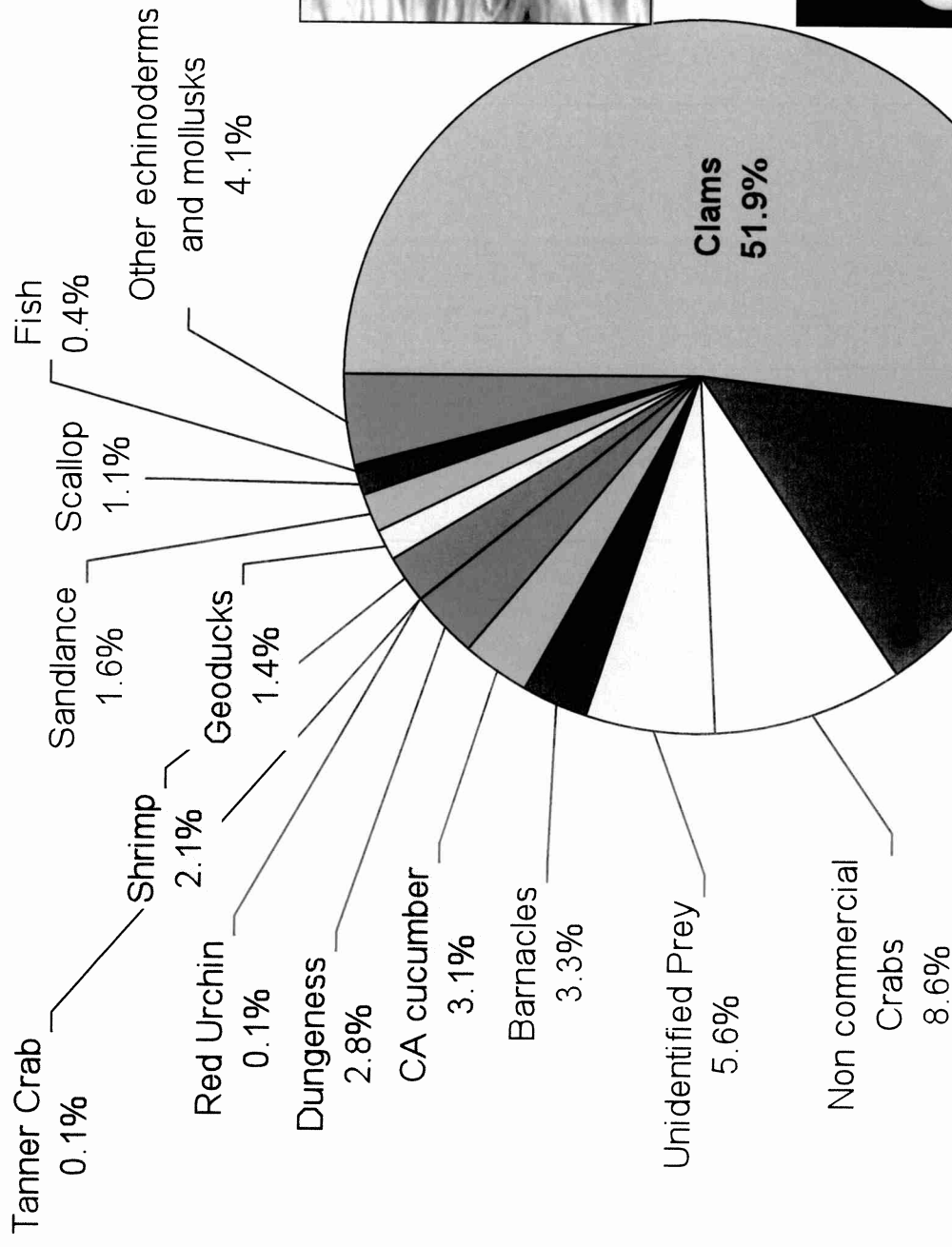


116 bouts recorded

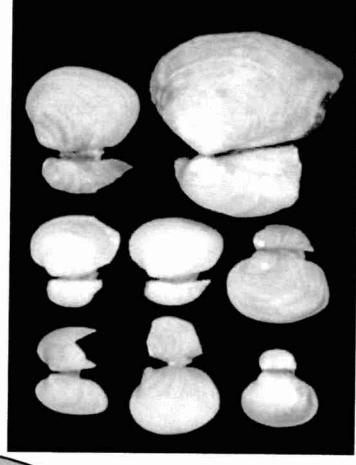
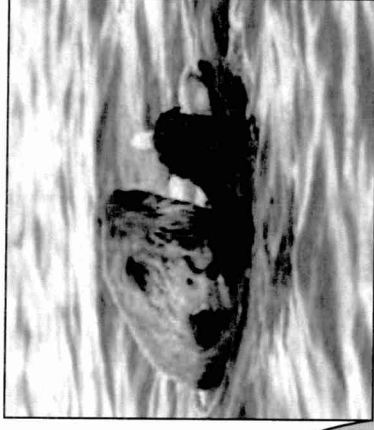
1500 dives recorded

1332 successful

Diet composition by taxonomic group

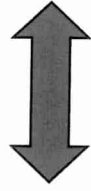


Component of Commercially important = 9.6%



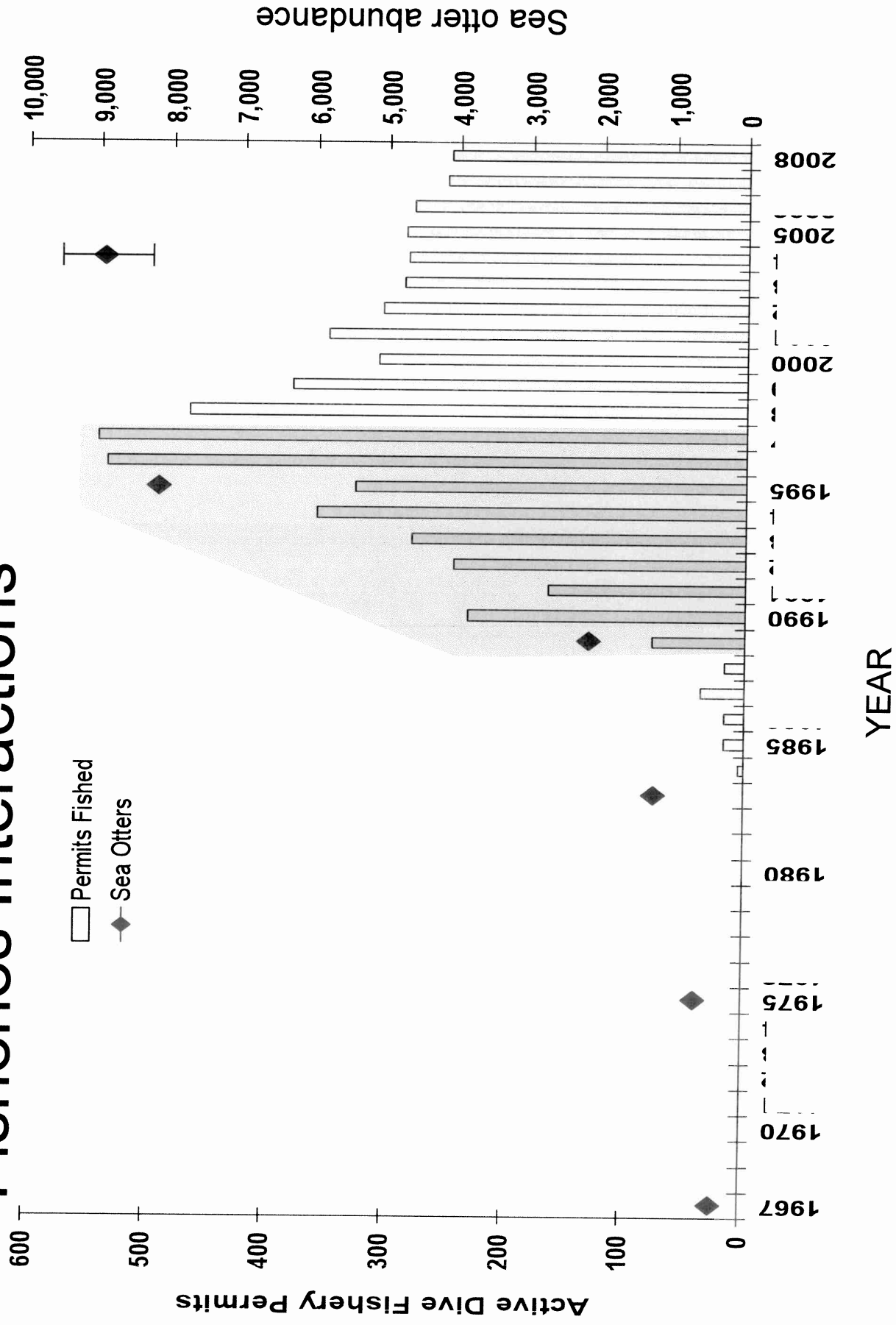
Conclusion

- Results confirm what we have been hearing anecdotally from the commercial fleet.
- Otters are having a significantly greater effect on commercial macro invertebrates on the frontal boundaries of their current distribution especially relating to California Sea Cucumbers and Dungeness Crab.
- More foraging data is needed from the region to address conflict of the other commercially important species.





Fisheries Interactions





www.alaskaseagrant.org/seaotters

Special Thanks

Icicle Seafood's

Kake Tribal

USFS - Petersburg
Ranger District

Bonnie Greenwood

Tory Wilson

Marlene Wagner

Crew of the F/V's:

Kuprenof

Kamalar

Westerly

Deco Bay

PERMITS : MMPA permit #041309

IACUC 164017-1