

Periodic Status Review: Sea Otter



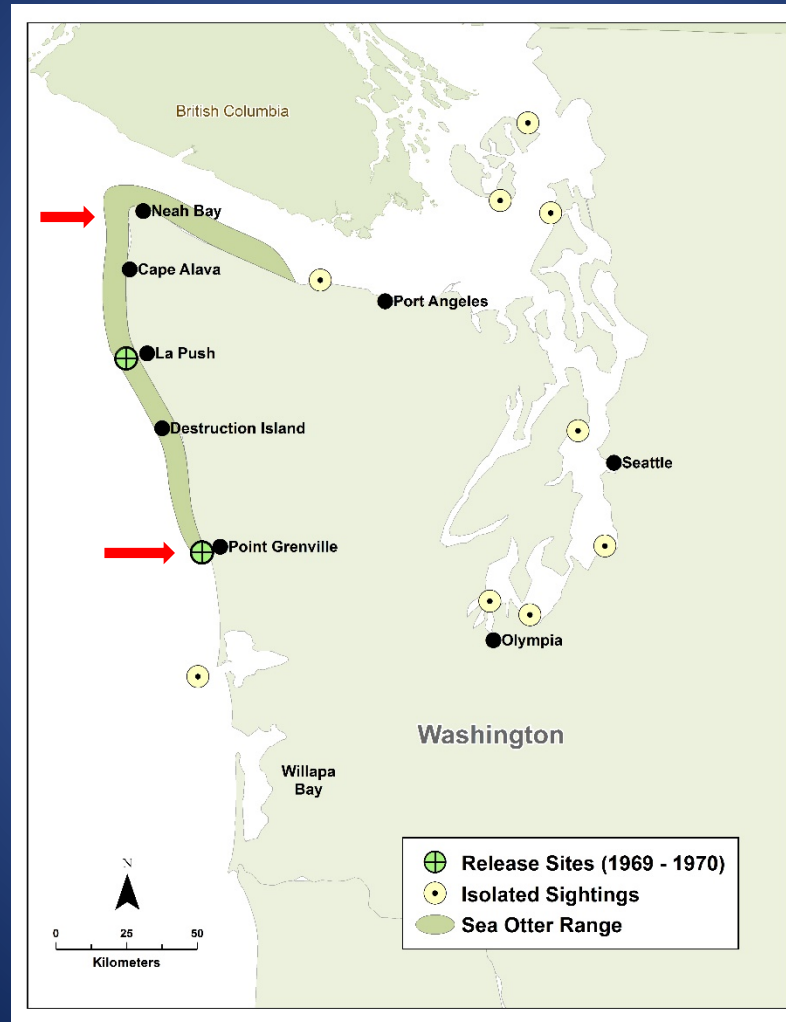
NOAA



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

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Sea Otter Washington Distribution



L. Salzer

Natural History

- Nearshore marine mammals
- Solitary or large groups called rafts
- Often found in rocky habitats with kelp



M.L. Baird

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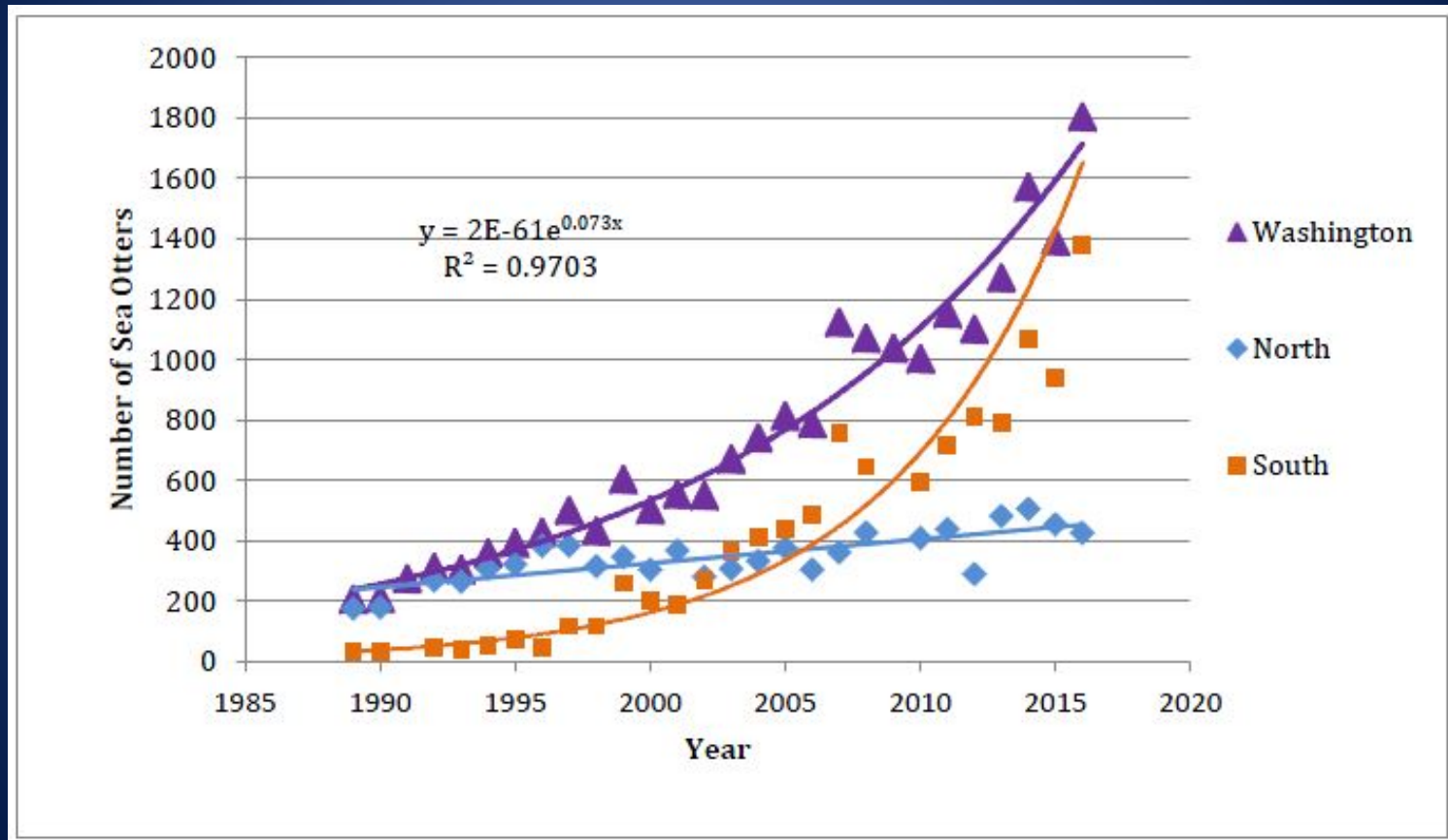
Natural History

- Breeding may occur anytime of year
- Feed on many invertebrates, prefer sea urchins and clams
- Home ranges are variable
- Can travel 400 km
- Possible genetic exchange with BC



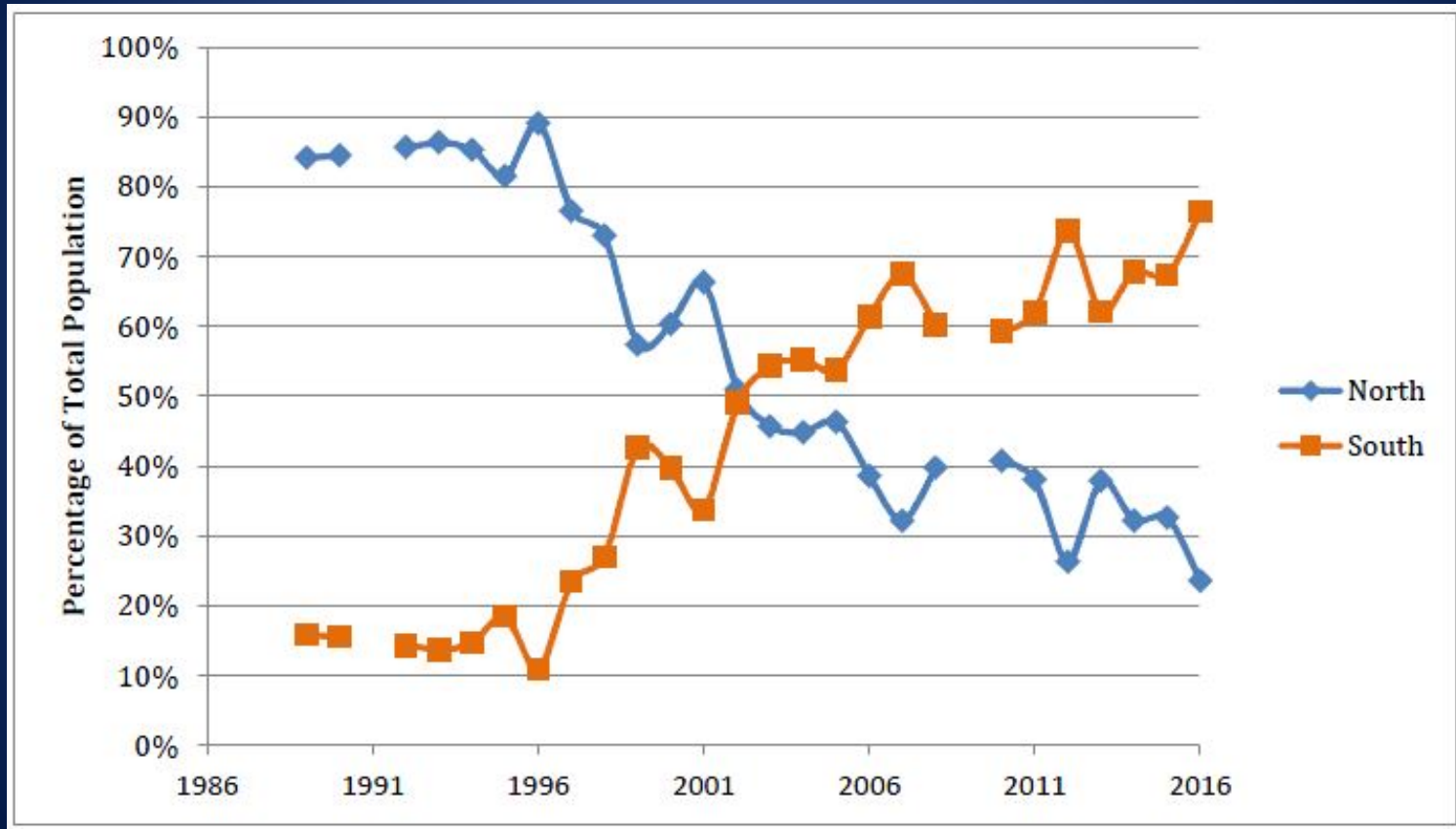
N. Fisher

Population Status and Trend



Jeffries et al. 2017

Population Status and Trend



Jeffries et al. 2017

Listing Status

- Protected under Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Federal: Washington population not listed
- Washington: endangered in 1981



R. Toft



T. Melling

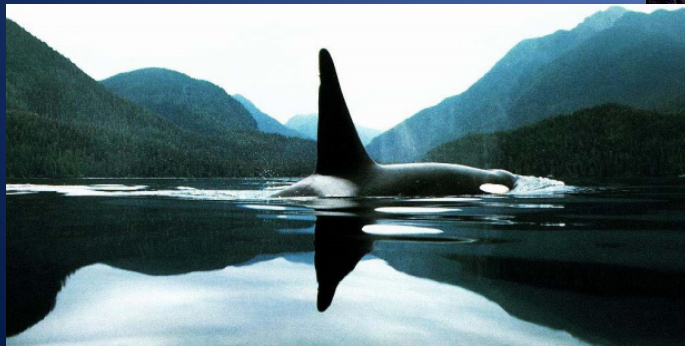
Factors Affecting Washington Sea Otters

- Oil spills
- Fishing activity
- Toxins, disease, and parasites



Factors Affecting Washington Sea Otters

- Small population size, isolation
- Climate change
- Predation



University of Washington



LB Peninsula Visitors
Bureau

Conservation Actions

- 2004 WDFW Recovery Plan
- Surveys and monitoring
- Research



M. Staedler



Jeffries et al. 2016

Conservation Actions

- Oil spill prevention/response
- Beach strandings

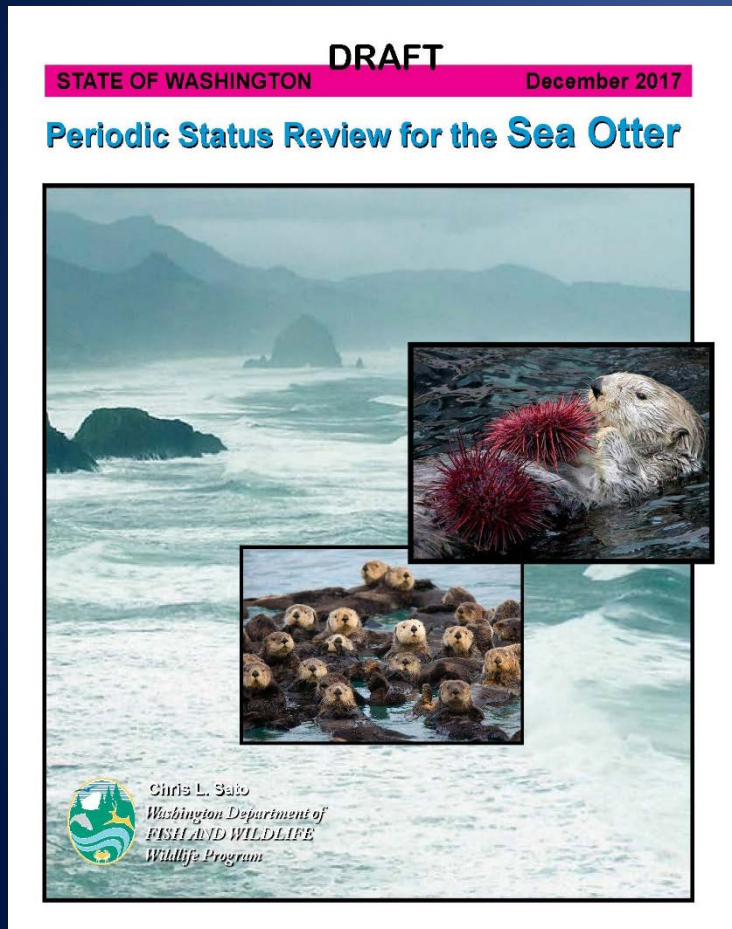


Asney



WSDOE

Recommendation



Down-list the sea otter to threatened.

Public Comments

- Two comments supporting continued protection.
- One comment to maintain endangered status.



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Questions?



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