

8:35-8:55

Fine Scale Population Growth, Redistribution and Equilibrium in Southeast Alaska Sites

Dr. Tim Tinker

Dr. Tinker is a Research Wildlife Biologist with the Western Ecological Research Center of the U.S. Geological Survey, and an adjunct Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California Santa Cruz. Since 1993, he has been studying sea otter populations in California, Alaska, British Columbia, and the Russian Commander Islands. Dr. Tinker is the project leader for Federal research on sea otters in California. Dr. Tinker's areas of interest include quantitative conservation ecology, behavioral ecology, and food web interactions. Dr. Tinker earned a B.Sc. at the University of Guelph, a M.S. in Zoology from the University of Waterloo, and his Ph.D. from the University of California Santa Cruz.

9:00-9:30

Questions for the Panel from the Alaskan Public

9:30-9:55

Panel Discussion

What are the research priorities?

Closing Remarks

Thank you for attending!

Posters

Activity budgets and foraging ecology of sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) in Sitka, AK

Kierstin M. Barlow, Heidi C. Pearson, and Jan Straley

Dead otters talking: How a mortality event led to answers about population dynamics and Alaska marine ecosystem health

Verena A. Gill, Angela M. Doroff, Dana M. Janski, and Douglas M. Burn

Impacts of sea otter recolonization on kelp communities in southern Southeast Alaska

Sonia Ibarra and Ginny Eckert

Impacts of sea otter predation on commercially important sea cucumbers in Southeast Alaska

Sean D. Larson, Zac N. Hoyt, Ginny L. Eckert, and Verena A. Gill

The Science of Southeast Alaska's Sea Otters:

A Symposium to Share the Latest Scientific Data



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Thursday, February 21, 2013
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Egan Library
University of Alaska Southeast
Juneau



Welcome & Introductions

**Dr. Marsha Sousa, Dean, UAS
School of Arts and Sciences**

Moderator: Michelle Ridgway

Ms. Ridgway is a Marine Ecologist and Research Director of Alaska Deep Ocean Science Institute. Ms. Ridgway has conducted kelp bed research in Alaska since 1988. She is currently examining the role of kelp carbon in deep sea canyon foodwebs in the Bering Sea and is conducting research on the population ecology of the newly discovered Golden V Kelp in the Pribilofs. Ms. Ridgway has over 20 years of experience in fisheries management, and has served on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Advisory Panel, the State of Alaska Steller Sea Lion Science Advisory Panel, and the Federal Marine Protected Areas Committee.

6:15-6:50

Keynote Address: Ecological Influences of Sea Otters

Dr. James Estes

Dr. Estes is a Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California at Santa Cruz. He is an international expert on sea otters and a specialist in the critical role of apex (top level) predators in the marine environment, which grew from decades of research on sea otters and coastal marine ecosystems. Dr. Estes worked as a research biologist for the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the US Geological Survey. After retiring from federal service in 2007, he took a faculty position at UC Santa Cruz. He has published over 150 scientific articles and several books and monographs. He received his B.S. from the University of Minnesota, his M.S. in Zoology from Washington State University, and his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Arizona.

7:00-7:20

Sea Otters in Southeast Alaska; Their Current Population Status & Causes of Mortality

Ms. Verena Gill

Ms. Gill is a Wildlife Biologist with the US Fish & Wildlife Service Marine Mammals Management in Anchorage. Since 1992, she has worked on marine ecosystems with a focus on sea otters, seabirds, and shorebirds. For the past decade, she has conducted pathologic and demographic studies of northern sea otters across Alaska and Russia. Ms. Gill is currently the lead quantitative biologist assessing sea otter population size and distribution in Southeast Alaska and is studying food limitation in birds. She received her B.A. from UAA and her M.S. in Biological Sciences from UAA.

7:20-7:40

History and Biology of Sea Otters

Mr. James Bodkin

Mr. Bodkin is a retired research wildlife biologist from the US Geological Survey. He began his career with the National Marine Fisheries Service in 1977, and began his studies of sea otters when stationed at the Big Sur coast in California. Mr. Bodkin has served as a research scientist with the USGS Alaska Science Center since 1990. Until 2012, he directed the coastal marine ecosystem team at the Center with a research focus on understanding the status and trends of nearshore marine ecosystems and the role of sea otters in the benthic invertebrate food web. In 1992, he initiated a long term study to determine the effects of sea otter recolonization in northern Southeast Alaska and Glacier Bay. Mr. Bodkin retired in 2012 and is continuing his research on sea otters. Mr. Bodkin obtained his B.S. from California State University and his M.S. from California Polytechnical University.

BREAK

Please view the posters in the back of the library

7:55-8:15

Recovery of the Sea Otter Population and Conflicts with Shellfish Users in Southeast Alaska

Dr. Ginny Eckert

Dr. Eckert is an Associate Professor of Fisheries at the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at UAF. Her and her graduate students' research provides information to improve management of fished invertebrate species. She is the Director of the Marine Ecosystem Sustainability in the Arctic and Subarctic program, which trains graduate students to work across disciplinary boundaries, to integrate natural and social sciences, and to work towards an ecosystem-based approach to managing living marine resources. Dr. Eckert obtained her B.A. from Dartmouth College, her M.S. in Zoology from the University of Florida, and her Ph.D. in Biology from the University of California Santa Barbara.

8:15-8:35

Understanding the Impacts of Sea Otters on Invertebrates in Glacier Bay

George Esslinger

Mr. Esslinger is a zoologist with the U.S. Geological Survey at the Alaska Science Center in Anchorage. His recent research focuses on understanding the effects of sea otters on soft-sediment invertebrates in Glacier Bay. Mr. Esslinger has studied sea otters in Southeast Alaska since 1993. He received a B.S. from Humboldt State University and an M.S. in Biological Sciences from UAA.