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**An Historical and Human Ecology of Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris*)
Exploitation in the Gulf of Alaska**

Abstract: This interdisciplinary study examined the historical ecology of sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) from the Gulf of Alaska. Methods derived from archaeology, biology, and cultural ecology were employed to analyze skeletal remains of otters from archaeological deposits dating from the mid-Holocene to the present in Prince William Sound and the Shelikof Strait. These archaeological specimens were then compared with modern specimens in order to gauge change over time in animal body size, to identify and assess the impact of human predation patterns and mercury pollutants, and to determine age of animal death. In the samples studied, there were no changes in body size due to human impacts; any changes were the result of sexual dimorphism. Otters were not selectively hunted as all classes are represented in the samples and mercury studies indicated little contamination.