Lunch Like No Otter



An Overview of Sea Otter (Enhydra lutris) **Foraging Behaviour**

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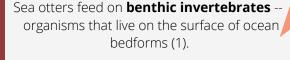


BEHAVIOUR

FORAGING DIVES in water allow for the capture of prey (1). They must swim back to the surface of water to handle and consume their prey (1).



Juveniles require high levels of parental care for feeding and protection from predation, which affect patterns of foraging dives (2).



A DEVELOPMENTAL TIMELINE OF FORAGING BEHAVIOUR

- require full help from their mother in foraging (3)



- first successful foraging dives achieved (3) - independent tool use (3) - solid food diet (3)

- INDEPENDENCE ACHIEVED (3)





- transition from resting to active swimming (3)

- first attempts of tool-use in food handling (3)



HOW DOES PARENTAL CARE AFFECT FORAGING STRATEGY?



Mothers face a trade-off between foraging and pup protection (5).



Mothers engage in **shallower** dive depths in foraging, to reduce time away from young (6).



Maternal foraging time increases, with increasing pup size (6).



Nocturnal foraging observed in mothers with dependent pups (3, 7).

THE FORMULA TO OPTIMAL FORAGING



How do sea otters decide where and what to forage?

Sea otters are typically generalized predators: one food source will be depleted in a region before choosing another food (8).

OPTION 1:

+ increase

DIVE DEPTH (1,5,6)

+ obtain **HIGH CALORIC FOOD (6)**

+ increase TIME foraging (1,5,6)

+ increased risk of PREDATION (2)

Often chosen by: - males (1) - females without **pups** (2,5)

OPTION 2:

decrease

DIVE DEPTH (1,5,6)

- obtain LOW CALORIC FOOD (6

- decrease TIME foraging (1,5,6)

 decreased risk of PREDATION (2)

Often chosen by: females with pups (2,5,6)- young pups new to

independent foraging

RBRBRBNCBS

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