

Fool. Canst tell how an oyster makes his shell?

Lear. No.

Fool. Nor I neither; but I can tell why a snail has
a house.

Lear. Why?

Fool. Why, to put his head in...

Shakspeare, King Lear

31ST EUROPEAN MARINE BIOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

9th to 13th September 1996

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACTS

Adaptation Strategies of Marine Organisms
Interaction of Marine Organisms in Communities
***Obelia* as a Dominant in Epibiotic Communities**

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**SEA OTTER PREY SPECIES IN GLINKA BAY, MEDNY ISLAND
(COMMANDER ISLANDS, RUSSIA)**

Through observations of sea otter foraging behaviour at Glinka Bay (Medny Island) zones of intensive and occasional foraging were delineated. These zones coincided with external boundary of *Alaria fistulosa* habitat and with the internal zone of the an aquatic site under investigation, respectively. During underwater SCUBA dives at 14 stations at these sites, 57 quantitative benthic samples were collected. Also, 28 sea otter scats were analysed. Over 40 potential prey species were found.

Analysis of the main and potential sea otter prey species (sea urchins, crustaceans, bivalve molluscs) distribution has shown the external zone to be low in food sources while there were large accumulations of sea urchins and crustaceans in the internal zone.

The mean diameter, density and biomass of sea urchins were higher in the internal zone than in the external one, and in the internal zone these indices were higher on the sites with sea urchins accumulations than on the background sites. Based on individual observations of sea otter foraging in the internal zone, modal size of sea urchins consumed was 40 mm, and maximum size was nearly 80 mm. At the same time sea urchins bigger than 42 mm were not found in the benthic samples.

Interaction of Marine Organisms in Communities. Poster Presentations

Overall one can consider the internal zone of the aquatic territory under investigation to not be depleted by sea otter predation. The reasons why sea otters preferred foraging in the external zone are unclear but one can assert with great confidence that their main foraging objects were not sea urchins which were few in number in the external zone.

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