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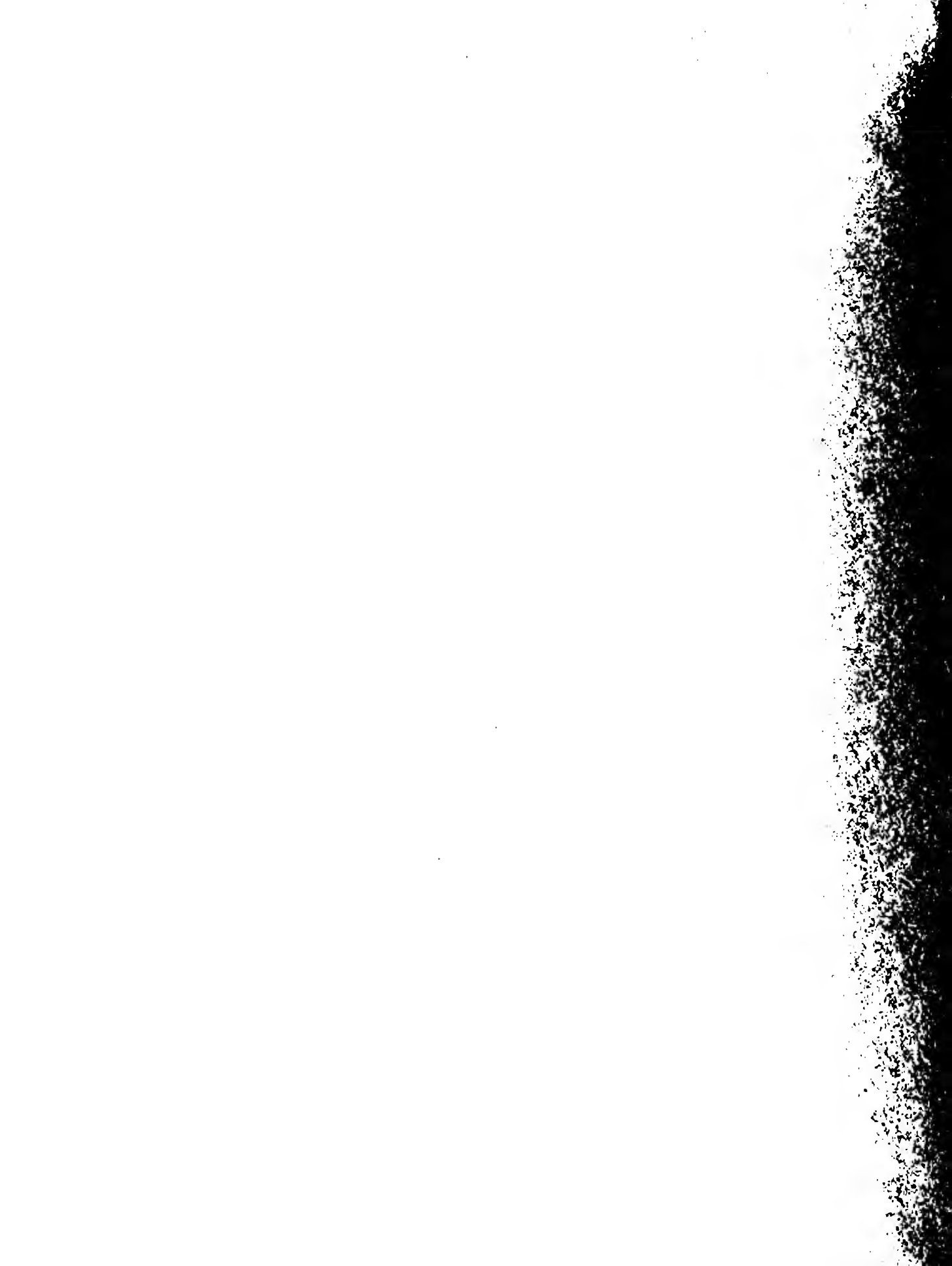


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Special Scientific Report—Wildlife No. 149



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ROGERS C. B. MORTON, *SECRETARY*
Nathaniel P. Reed, *Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks*
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Spencer H. Smith, *Director* (Acting)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE SEA OTTER

By

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By

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INTRODUCTION

Unregulated hunting of the sea otter (Enhydra lutris) for 170 years after its discovery in 1741 pushed this interesting and valuable fur bearer to the brink of extinction. By 1911, when it was given complete protection under an international treaty (see: U.S. Congress-House, 1912), its scattered remnant colonies probably numbered only a few hundred animals. Today, after 60 years of protection, much of its Alaskan habitat is recolonized by perhaps 50,000 otters. Transplants of otters to unoccupied parts of its former range in Southeastern Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon were successfully accomplished between 1965 and 1971. The smaller California population now numbers over 1,000 animals.

The mother sea otter exhibits affectionate, and prolonged attention to her young. Because of this trait and other unique habits, such as breaking the shells of mollusks on a rock, using kelp as mooring lines while sleeping, swimming at the surface on its back, and because of its availability to observers on shore, it attracts much public interest.

To answer many of the questions we receive concerning sea otters, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife produced "The sea otter in the eastern Pacific Ocean" in 1969 as publication No. 68 in its North American Fauna Series (obtainable for \$1.75 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402). This publication contains a list of 172 references cited, of which 123 directly concern the sea otter. To satisfy requests for a more complete and up-to-date listing, the present bibliography of references has been prepared.

In this bibliography we have stressed recent literature dealing with biology. The reviews of Ogden (1941), Fisher (1940), Miller and Miller (1967), and Harris (1968) provide useful references to the historical literature. Some of the references that we include were produced for educational or entertainment value and do not contain the results of original work.

Calvin J. Lensink, Larry Bidlake, James B. Faro, and Judson Vandevere assembled bibliographies on the sea otter in 1957, 1964, 1968, and 1971, respectively. These were not published. We have referred to copies of these works and wish to acknowledge their usefulness in the preparation of the present bibliography.

We wished to check every reference with the original for accuracy, but this was not always possible. In some cases only a translation of a foreign language publication was seen. In others, only a copy of a rare or obscure publication was available. Also, we did not search for brief articles published in popular periodicals and we omitted newspaper articles. Reference is given to certain unpublished reports if these are available to researchers in certain libraries. An asterisk is placed after each publication that was not seen.

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