The Decreasing Population of the Northern Sea Otters in Southwestern Alaska


According to Bodkin, on behalf of the Alaska Science Center as well as the United States Geological Service, the cause as well as the magnitude of the declining population of the sea otters remains unknown. Bodkin also gives information about how research is performed when studying the sea otter population. This information could be used as part of the introductory paragraph in a paper written about the declining population of the northern sea otters. This information is credible because it came from the Alaskan Science Center which is part of the United States Geological Service. Bodkin’s audience would most likely be people with at least some college education and who also have an interest in northern sea otters.


In this article, Bourne writes about a biologist named Vernon Byrd as he studies in Alaska. He studies sea lions, sea otters, seals, and walruses and notes that they have all declined in population in the Alaskan region. The author is documenting Vernon Byrd’s study, which makes this credible. This article would be good if used as supporting
evidence in a paper about the declining population of sea otters in the Alaskan region. The audience for this article would be high school students because it is rather easy to read and understand. Also a person with a college education would find this article helpful and useful. However, because it is in *National Geographic*, which is not a traditional scholarly journal, most researchers and professors may overlook this article.


This webpage is used to answer questions that the public might have about the listing of sea otters as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act. It addresses questions about how the listing will impact human activities in southwest Alaska. This webpage also gives the public ways that they can get involved. This information could be used as a part of the body of a paper written about the declining population of northern sea otters in the Alaskan region. It provides a lot of useful and supportive information that would greatly benefit a paper on such a topic. This webpage is geared towards the public, specifically those interested in this topic and also the people of Alaska.


In this article, Garshelis and Johnson discussed the sea otter population near Alaska after the Exxon Valdez oil spill. According to their studies, the sea otter population remained the same, if not higher than before the spill happened. This study disproved a previous study that concluded the contrary. This article could be used in the body of a paper about the population of sea otters. A good argument could be made in saying that the decline in
sea otter population today is not from the oil spill in 1989. Garshelis and Johnson’s audience would be professors and researchers who are interested in this topic. Researchers and professors would fine these two men credible because they belong to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Western Ecological Research Center. (2003). Sea otter research at WERC. Retrieved October 29, 2005, from http://www.werc.usgs.gov/otters/.

On this website, developed by the Western Ecological Research Center, there is information on the history of sea otters. Before the maritime fur trade, in the 1700s, sea otters were abundant in the southwest Alaskan region. By the end of the nineteenth century, sea otters were hunted almost to extinction. In 1911, sea otters were protected and then the species began to recover. Populations in this area have started to decrease now. This information could be used in the first paragraph of the body of a paper about the declining population of Northern sea otters in order to give the reader a brief history about the species. This information is credible because it came from the Western Ecological Research Center (WERC) which is a part of the United States Geological Survey. WERC works with state, federal, and also local groups to uphold knowledge and expertise on the sea otters in the Alaskan region along with Washington and California. The people that might find this government website useful and interesting might be someone with some college education. Also, people that hold science degrees and are also interested in Alaska or sea otters might find this website useful.

In this news release, Woods, on behalf of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, declared the Northern sea otter as a “threatened” species in Southwest Alaska under the Endangered Species Act on August 9, 2005. The southwest Alaskan region includes the Aleutian Islands, Cook Inlet, Alaska Peninsula, and the Kodiak Archipelago. Woods also states that the decline of the otters began in the 1980s. The current population is estimated to be less than 9,000 otters. The reason for the drastic decline in the Northern sea otter is not completely clear; however, there is some evidence that shows orca whales have preyed on the otters in the Aleutian Island chain. More research must be done before a conclusion can be made. This information could be used as part of an introductory paragraph in a paper written on the decreasing population of the Northern sea otter. This information is credible because it came from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a federal agency that is responsible for not only conserving, but also for protecting wildlife for the benefit of the American people. The agency enforces laws, restores wildlife habitats, and works with foreign governments to aid in their conservation and restoration efforts. Woods’s audience would most likely be people with at least some college or even people with a bachelor’s degree in a science field who have an interest in Alaska or Northern sea otters.