

Patterns of Re-establishment of sea otters in British Columbia



- Maritime fur trade - 1778
- Ecologically extinct – 1850s
- Extirpated as a species in BC - 1930





Reintroduction to Checleset Bay 1969 – 1972:
Total 89 animals released



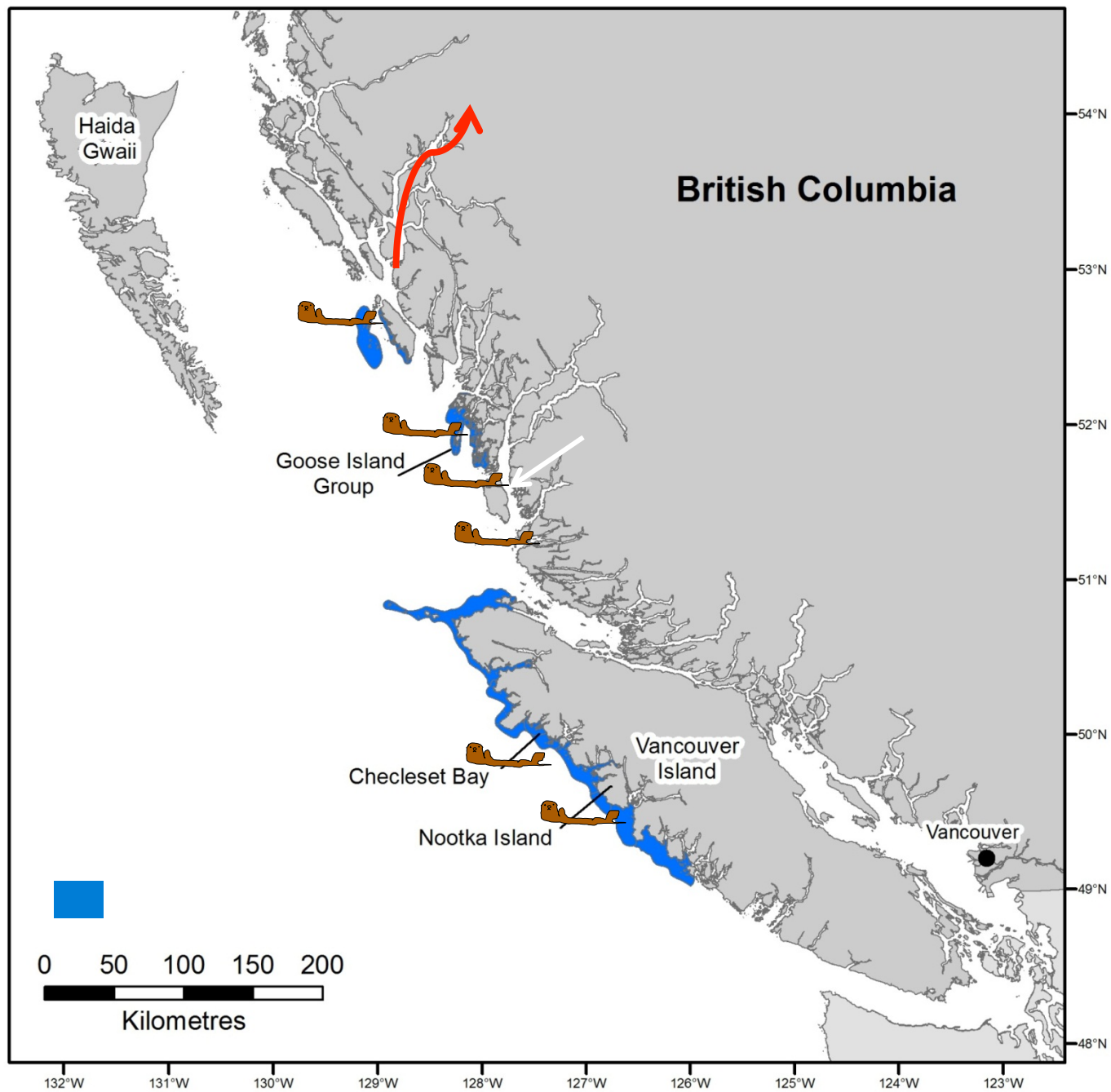
- “[the] whole idea from the beginning was to return to the [British Columbia] coast an animal that we had destroyed”

...during the same era

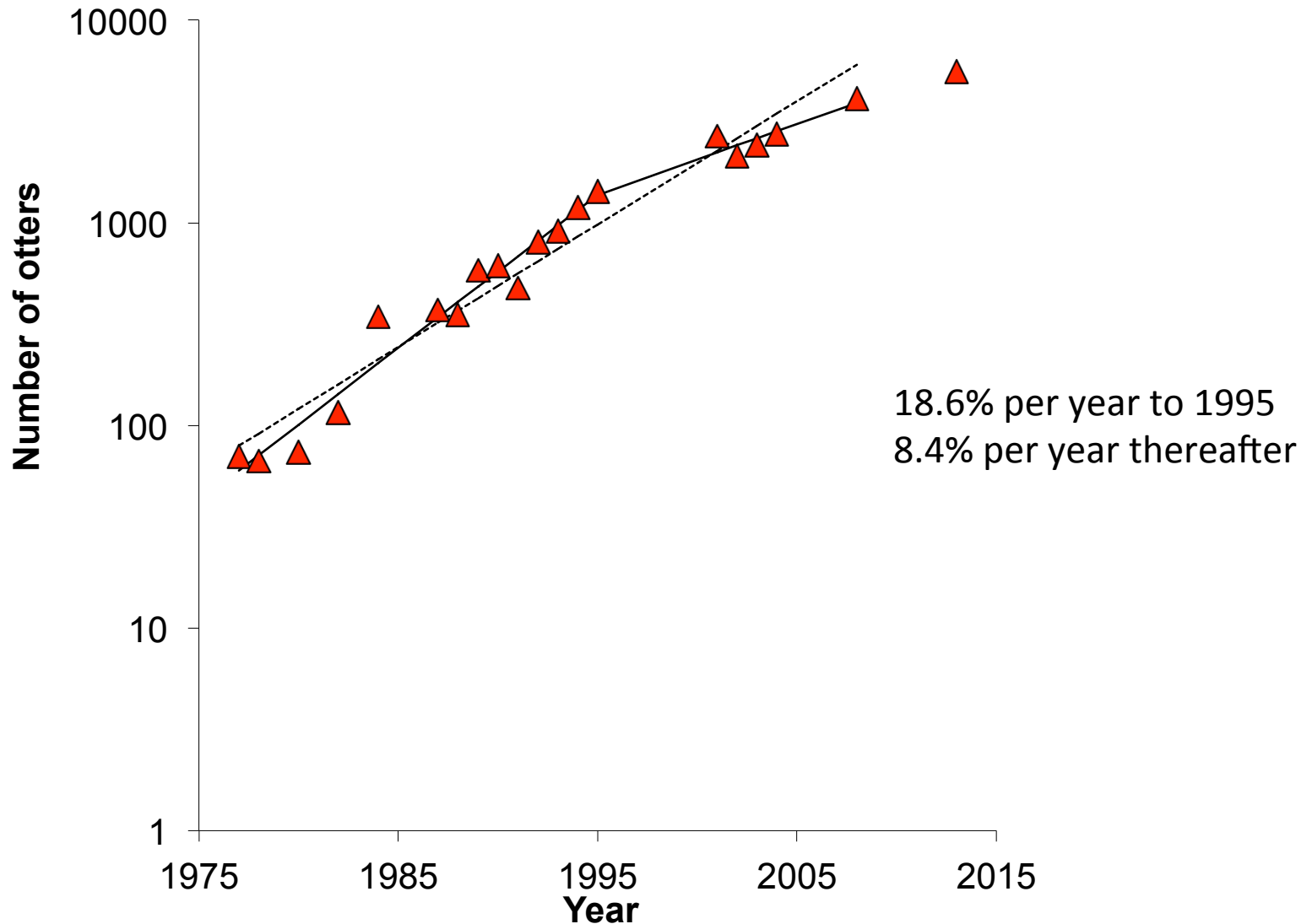


And in the US...

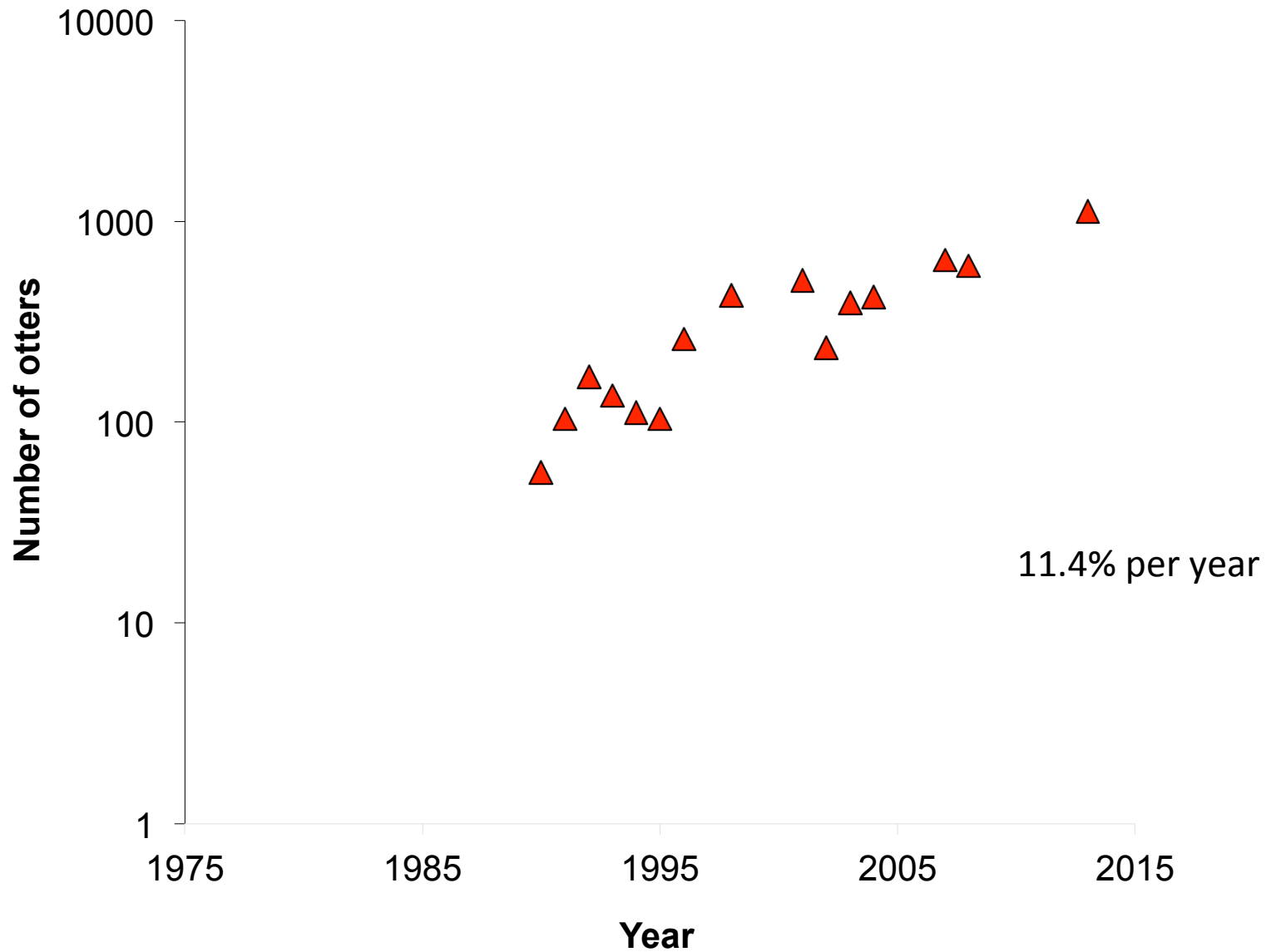
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act

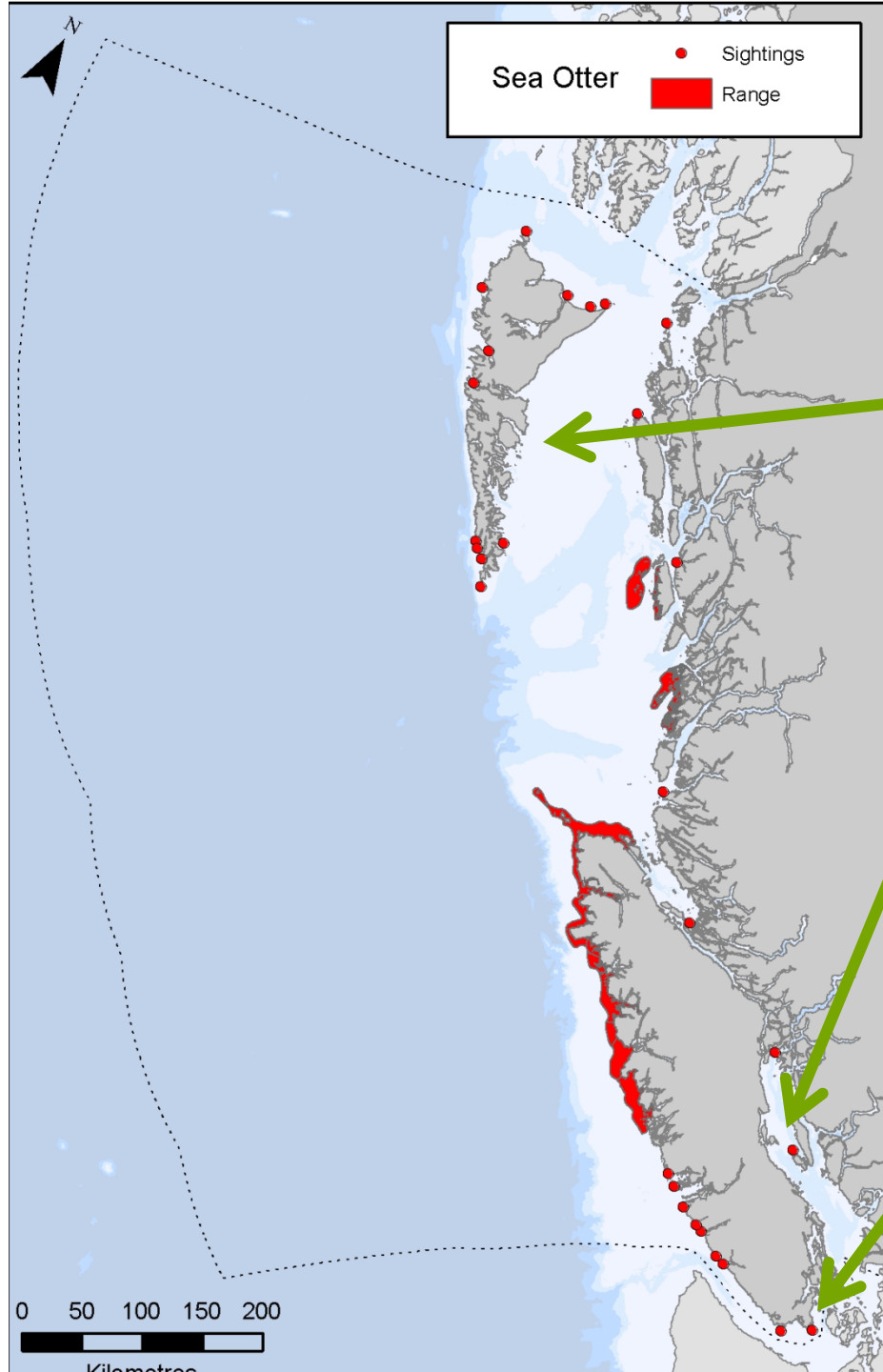


Vancouver Island sea otter population growth

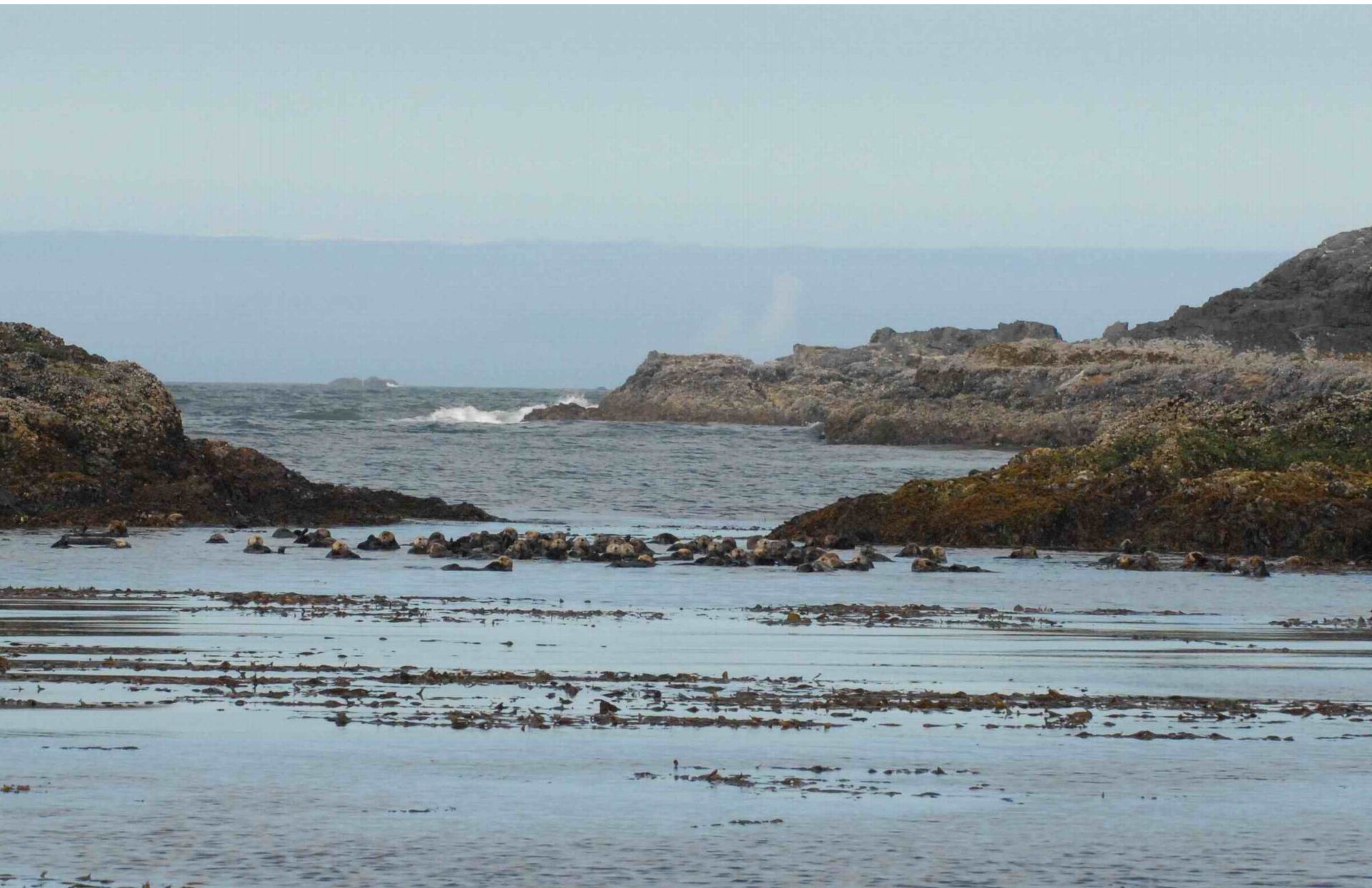


Central coast sea otter population growth





- Extralimital sightings. Mostly sightings of single animals
- Juan de Fuca Strait, Strait of Georgia, Haida Gwaii ...



Occupy exposed rocky coastal areas...for the most part

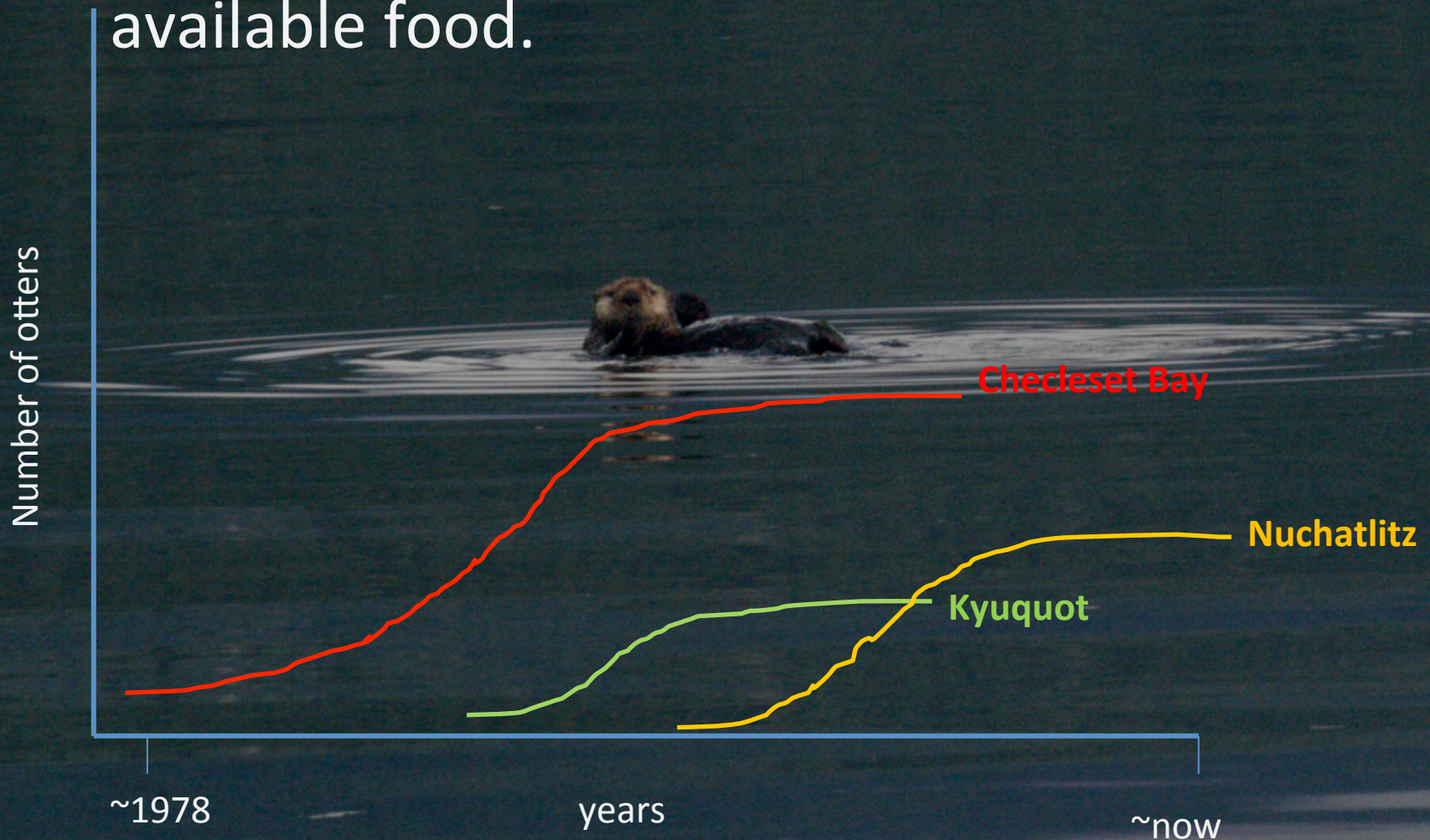


At edge of occupied range, often find male rafts

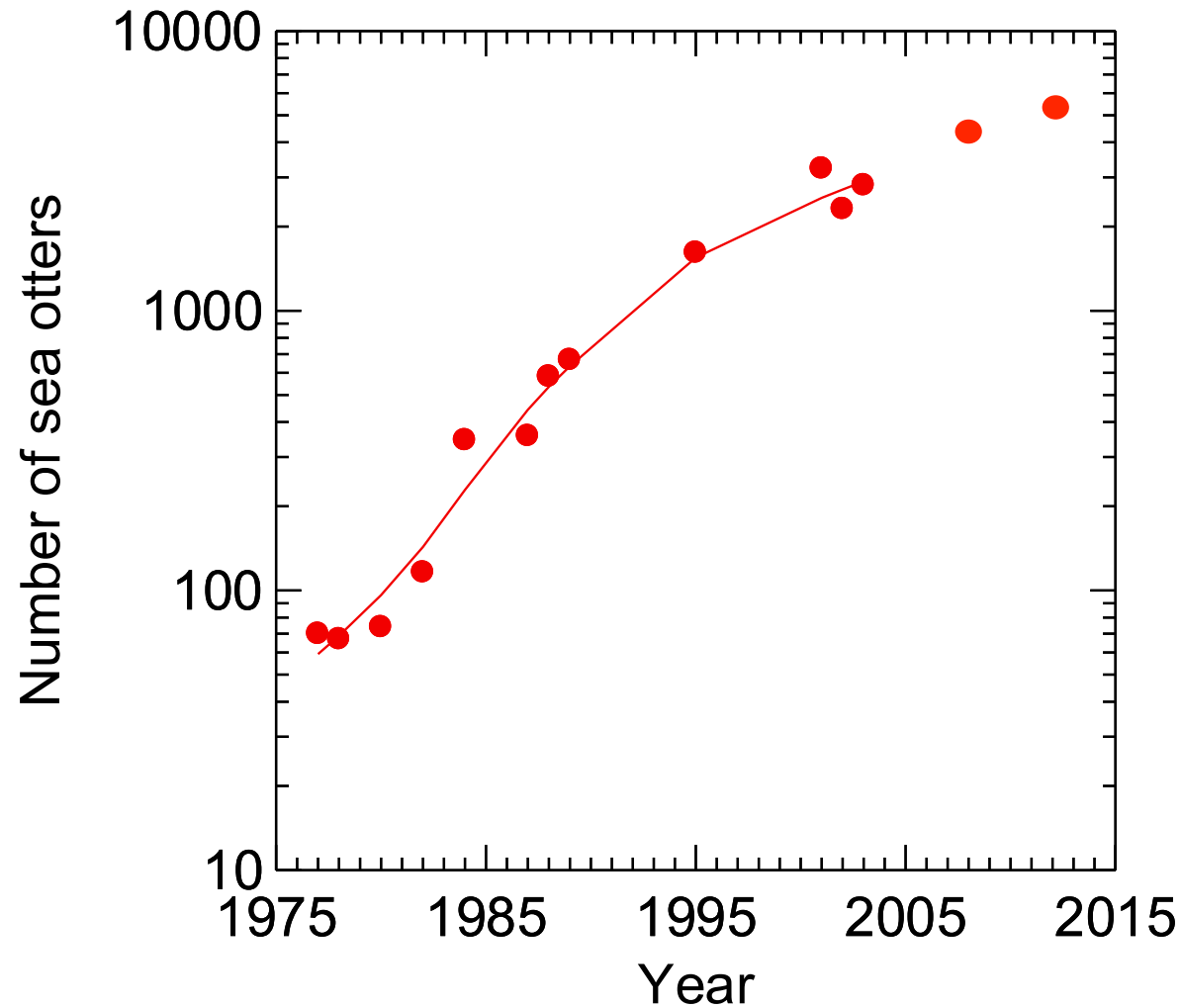


Rafts of females (and pups) form and occupy habitats inside the established range

Number of sea otters increase in an area until it reaches an equilibrium with available food.



Population growth





Diet changes in an area as population in an area grows to equilibrium density

Sea Cucumbers are really chewy
“how do I eat this!”



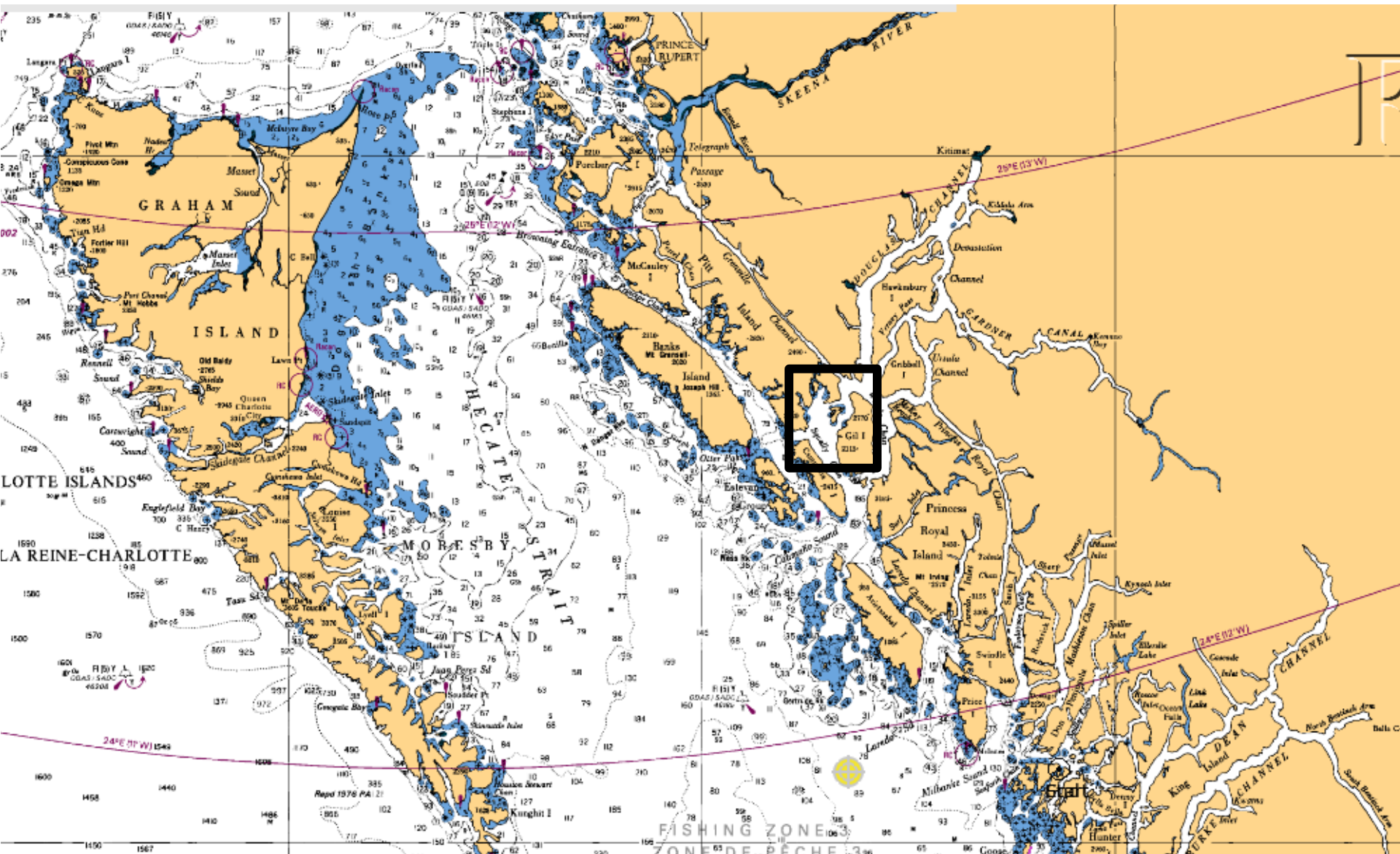
E. Rechsteiner



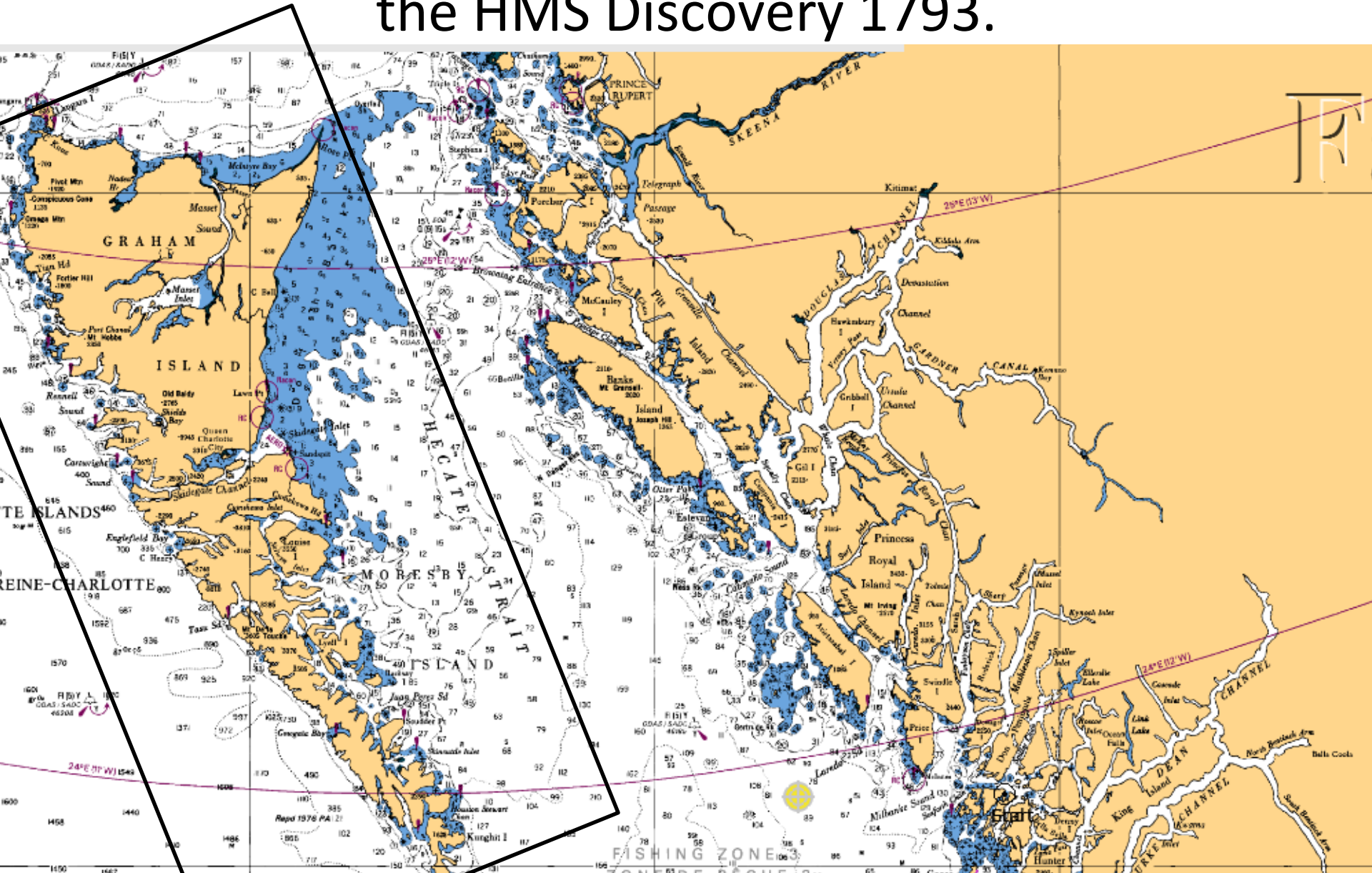
Robin Abernethy
Caitlin Blain
Mike DeRoos
Leah Honka
Stan Hutchings
Linda Nichol
Erin Rechsteiner
Leah Saville
Jared Towers
Jane Watson

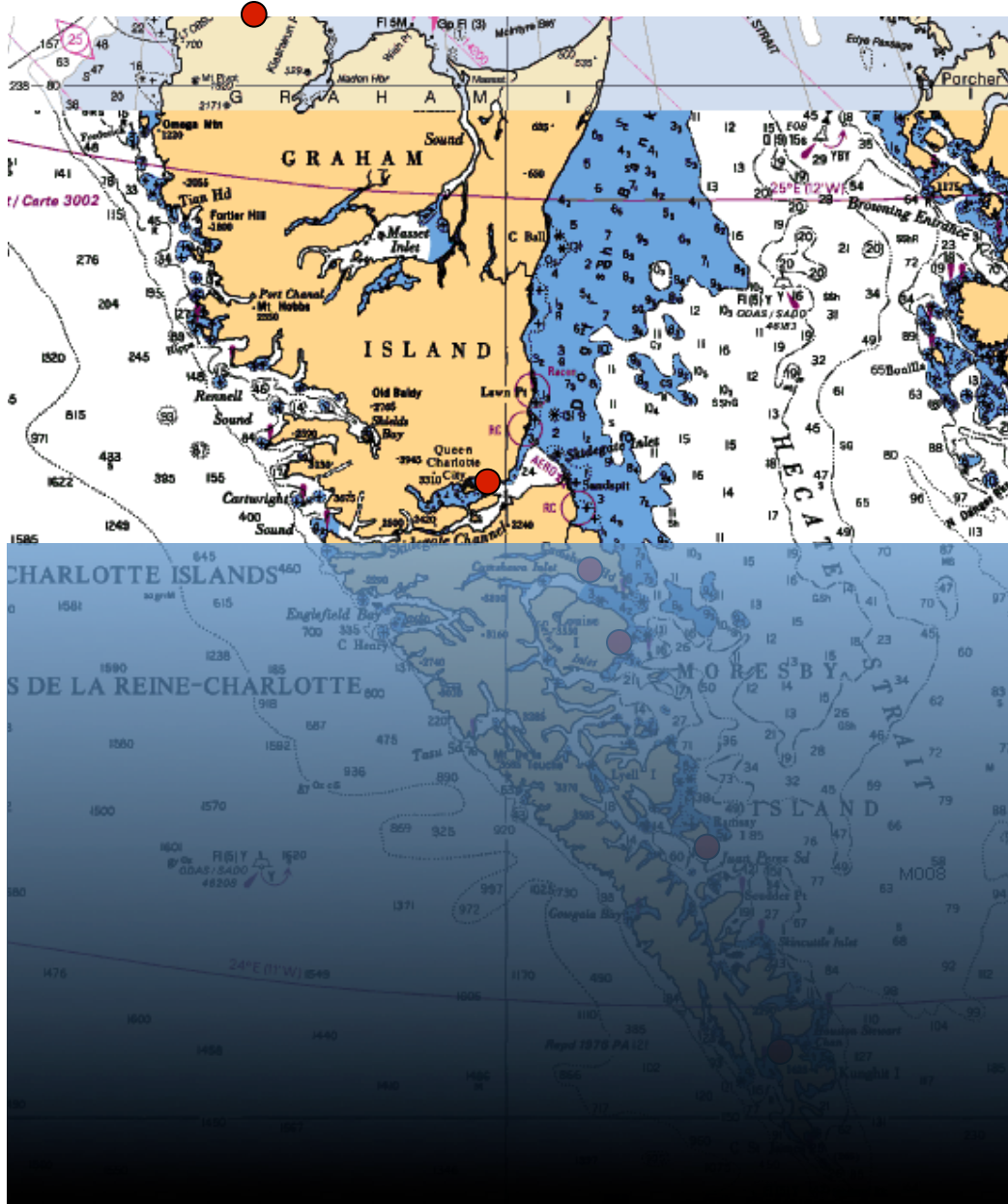
Wright Sound near entrance to Grenville Channel on July 10th, 1793

From the journal of Archibald Menzies aboard the HMS Discovery.



from the journal of Archibald Menzies aboard
the HMS Discovery 1793.





After 1799 locations south of Skidegate cease to be mentioned. Depletion of sea otter population in the south

- Places of trade mentioned in ship logbooks 1787 to 1799.