

## **Linking Traditional Ecological Knowledge with Contemporary Knowledge to Conserve Northern Abalone and Sea Otter.**

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The Northern abalone (*Haliotis kamtschatkana*) and the Sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*) are both species that are listed as Threatened under the Species at Risk Act. These two species are linked ecologically by a predator prey relationship. A multi-species approach to recovery may be beneficial when two or more species at risk are found in the same geographic region, when the species share a common threat, or when their respective recoveries may be directly linked. The purpose of the project was to determine historic estimates of Sea otter and Northern abalone in Barkley Sound, utilizing First Nations' traditional ecological knowledge. Consultation with First Nations of the coast, and the approval of First Nations for recovery initiatives in their traditional territories is imperative. A series of interviews were conducted with 6 First Nations Elders, representing 5 West Coast bands. Information from oral interview was transcribed, recorded, and compared with contemporary knowledge. Results from this project were incorporated into other First Nation's initiatives. In this way this Species at Risk project involved First Nations in the initial stages of recovery of Sea otter and Northern abalone in meaningful ways that had value to them.