

How Can I Help the Sea Otter?

Each member of every household has the ability to make necessary lifestyle and consumption changes that can greatly increase the sea otter's chance for survival. The good news is that **THESE CHANGES ARE EASY!** Make protecting the sea otter and the marine ecosystem a family affair, because in the end every living thing will benefit!

Since a continued threat to sea otters is oil pollution we strongly encourage you to cut down on your consumption of oil and oil-based products! Nationwide every year 350 million gallons of oil is discarded in storm drains, waterways, and soil. This is 30 times greater than the largest tanker spill:

- Switch to vegetable and fruit based detergents and household cleaners.
- Use paper bags. Avoid plastic and Styrofoam packaging of any kind.
- Refill and reuse containers when appropriate.
- Use public transportation when you can. Consider joining a carpool.
- Walk or bike when running short errands.

Oil has the potential to seriously harm or kill sea otters by damaging internal organs and coating their fur, leaving them unable to remain warm!

Here are other practices that you can adopt in everyday activities:

- Recycle everything that you can at home, work, and school. Cut up beverage six pack rings before recycling. Dispose of mono-filament line responsibly when fishing.
- Dispose of hazardous waste appropriately! Not sure how to dispose of that old can of paint, herbicide, insecticide or cleaning solvent? Call your local waste management authority for guidance. Buy environmentally friendly products.
- Be conscientious of **EVERYTHING** that you put down your drain since most of it will eventually make its way back into rivers, streams, and the Ocean. Sea otters can experience terrible effects from the garden and agricultural pesticides, street oil, and even flushable cat litter! Practice organic gardening techniques!
- Write or call your elected officials to find out what they are doing to protect the ocean and the sea otter's habitat. Visit FSO's website to find out which officials need to be contacted regarding **CRITICAL** sea otter research funding and other proposals that are currently awaiting Congressional and agency approval.

- Keep up to date with the issues that affect sea otters such as kelp harvesting, transport of oil, and commercial fishing trends. FSO's official position on these and other issues is available on our website. Encourage friends, neighbors, and co-workers to do the same.

- You can also help protect the sea otter and the marine ecosystem through your FSO membership and or donation, by helping to educate your friends and family, and/or by shopping at FSO's Education Retail Center or on-line store. All net proceeds from the sale of FSO's retail and educational items help the sea otters by funding FSO's advocacy, scientific, and educational programs.

“THE EARTH DOES NOT BELONG TO US. WE BELONG TO THE EARTH.”

CHIEF SEATTLE

Friends of the Sea Otter (FSO), a non-for-profit organization co-founded in 1968 by Margaret Owings and Dr. James Mattison, is dedicated to the protection of a rare and threatened species, the southern sea otter, as well as sea otters throughout their north Pacific range, and all sea otter habitat. FSO is dependent upon membership dues and contributions from concerned people like you.

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