

Did *you* know?

???

....Sea otters are a keystone species.

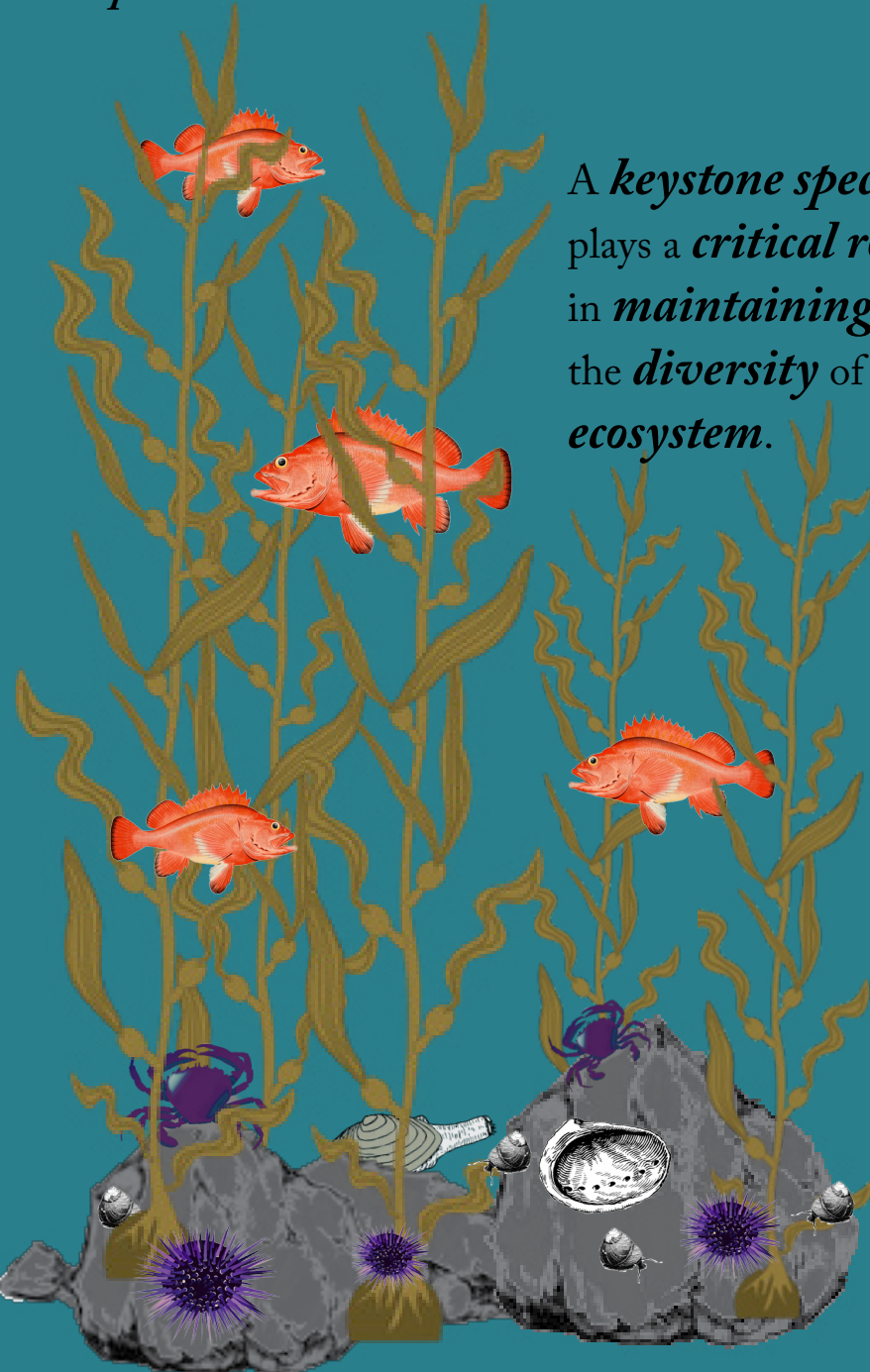


Sea otter foraging helps keep urchin populations in check.



Kelp Forest With Sea Otters

A *keystone species* plays a *critical role* in *maintaining* the *diversity* of an *ecosystem*.



Kelp Forest Without Sea Otters

Removing sea otters can cause a chain reaction that is detrimental to the kelp forest ecosystem.

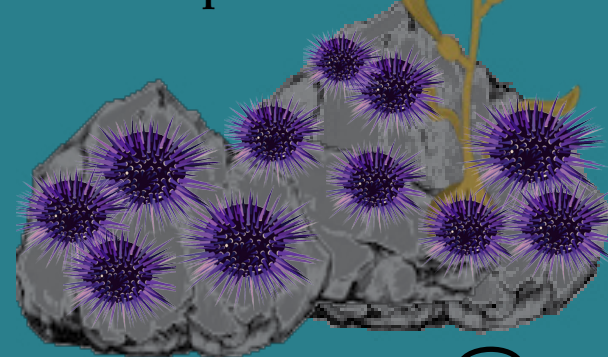
No sea otters



Too many urchins

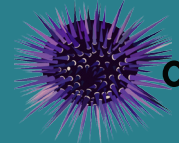


Minimal kelp habitat



Sea urchins feed on kelp.

Nom nom!



Support California's sea otters by making a voluntary contribution on Line 410 of your state income tax return.

Do it *fur* the otters, check it off! © CDFW Reproduction for educational purposes only.

