



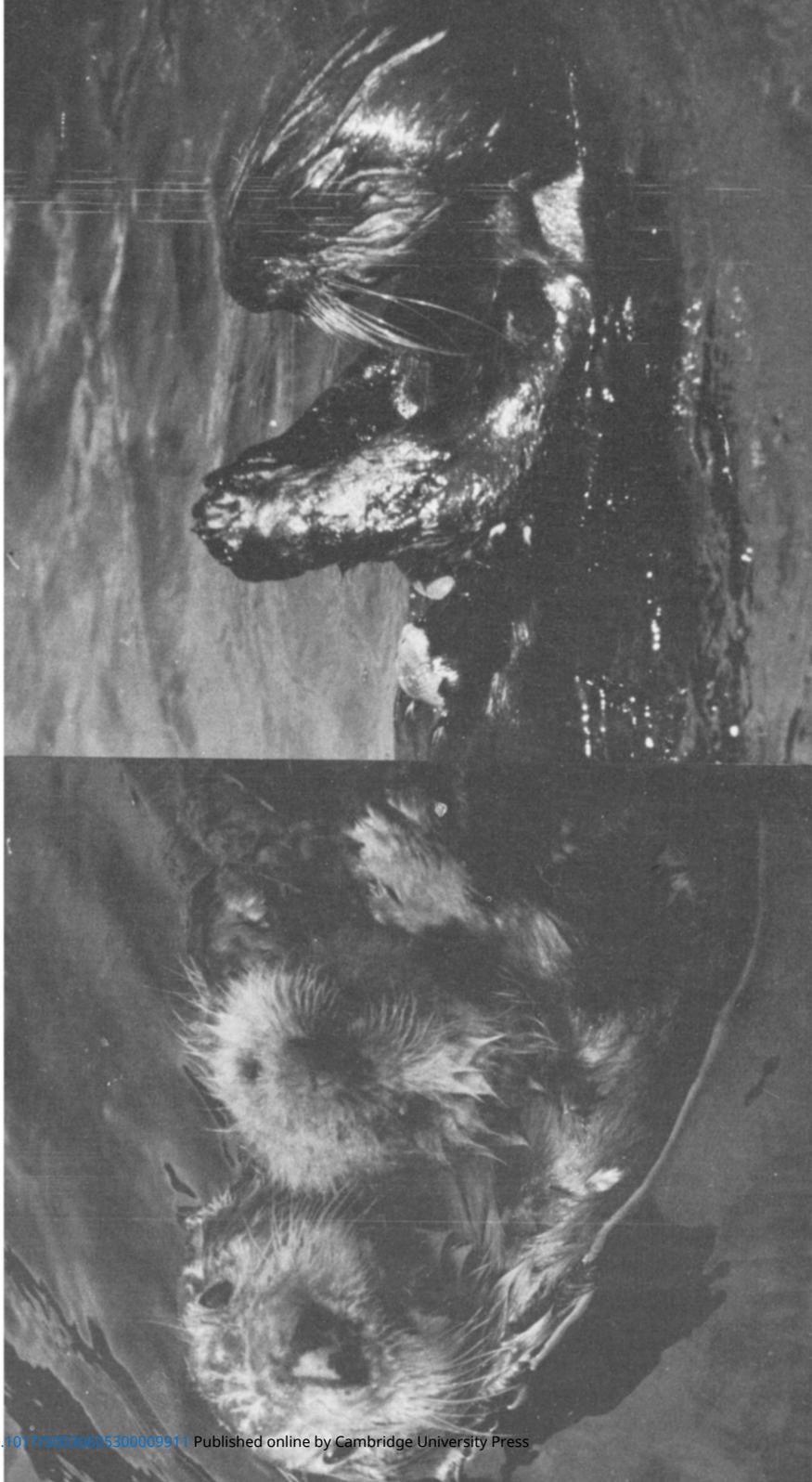
The Sea Otter

First described for the scientific world by Steller after his Bering Sea voyage in 1741, the sea otter *Enhydra lutris* had been hunted to the verge of extinction by 1900. But full protection after 1911 brought numbers up again until, by the 1950s, it was no longer considered endangered; since 1962, thanks to good management, based on much field research, it has been possible to take a small harvest on a sustained yield basis. *The Sea Otter in the Eastern Pacific*, published by the US Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife (\$1.75), written by Karl W. Kenyon, one of the major field workers, is a detailed, very well illustrated account of the sea otter's biology, distribution and history, which, incidentally, does not recognise a division of sea otters into a northern (Alaskan) and southern (Californian) subspecies. The photographs were taken by Karl Kenyon in Alaska, where many sea otters were killed in the recent nuclear test on Amchitka Island – early estimates suggested between 300 and 800.



Above: Adult males in typical swimming attitude, forepaws folded on the chest. They move forward by alternate strokes of the hind flippers — maximum speed 2½ kms an hour.

Below left: Mother and child. **Right:** Sea otter breaking clams by pounding one in her forepaws against the one lying on-her chest.





AT THE READY. Lying on its back the sea otter is ready to repel attack — with teeth and forepaws. This splendid photograph also shows the beauty of the sea otter's very valuable fur.