



“GGNRA Endangered Species Big Year Sea Watch for Endangered Sea Creatures”

» PREVIEW The winter season is officially here. I’m always looking for excuses to stay adjacent to my space heater, but this one might be too good: like a WoW gamer, I’ve now spent more than 24 hours watching sea otter videos on YouTube. The most relevant “sea otter” match is the one of sea otters holding hands — I have no doubt ya’ll have seen it on someone you’re stalking’s Facebook wall, posted by their significant other. It comes equipped with *oobs* and *aabs* from those behind the camera (someone actually compliments this aspect in YouTube’s comments section). As the camera zooms in on their little paws I find myself repulsed — only because I’m desperately jealous. I wish my life was that simple: lying on my back while my hairy lover and I hold hands and float on the ocean’s surface.

Sea otters have more hairs-per-inch than any other mammal, so they definitely have better insulation than my bedroom. They’re also smart: they use rocks to dislodge sea urchins and open shells. Additionally, they spend much of their time grooming. They’re cute, smart, and consistently take showers. Now maybe you understand why I’m jealous. If I could find a lover who possesses even two of those attributes, I’d be happy.

Recently I’ve been thinking that instead of watching sea otters on YouTube, it might be better to see them in real life. They’re in danger of extinction, so maybe it’s wrong to merely eye their onscreen antics with jealousy. Coincidentally, some other people have had similar thoughts and organized a sea watch for endangered creatures, which means that if you join in, you’ll also be on the lookout for humpback whales, marbled murrelet, and stellar sea lion. **(Michelle Broder Van Dyke)**

GGNRA ENDANGERED SPECIES SEA WATCH FOR ENDANGERED SEA CREATURES

Sun/28, 8–10 a.m., free. Meet at Louis’ Restaurant, 902 Point Lobos Ave., SF. (e-mail mbzlat@yahoo.com for reservations) (415) 561-4700, www.ggnrabigyear.org.
