

Octopus for lunch



Mmmm

Kristen Graff

Kristen got this shot on July 7 at the Plover Reefs otter nursery while whale watching with Tyson Cross (whale watch driver/guide for Remote Passages). Considering that we have images of several instances where octopus is on the menu we must conclude that these cephalopods are a significant part of the Sea Otters diet. This one would have been scooped while away from the security of its hermitage foraging over the sand for crabs or clams. The otter would not have had any trouble handling the 8 armed denizen as the suckers can't stick to the otters dense fur. There would however be a limit to the size of the octopus. The largest I personally captured for the Undersea Gardens was 18.5 feet (5.6 m) across but that's another story.

Other prey species we have documented are of course sea urchins, Geoducks, Red Rock Crabs (lots of these) and a Puget Sound King Crab. Very often they're been photographed obviously chowing down on something but we were unable to identify the hapless species.

Later...Rod info@strawberryisle.org