Marine otter family swimming back to the coast at the shoreline of the Valdivian Coastal Reserve.

Adult male resting on brown algae (Iridaea laminarioides)
Adult female (right) and their cub eating a small crab.

Adult male eating a small crab (Taliepus dentatus)
Remains of the crab Taliepus dentatus consumed by marine otters.

Remains of large crabs (17 cm width) consumed by otters. Cancer edwardsi and Homalaspis plana.
Exposed marine otter habitat with presence of small sandy beaches, in the northern zone of the study area.

Mixed marine otter habitat with presence of rocky shore and pocket sandy beaches. Native evergreen forest reaches the shore. This place is part of the Valdivian Coastal Reserve, where de otters were included as conservation target in the management plan.
One of the main current threats to otters; roads construction along and very close to the coast. Habitat alteration, even destruction is evident, due to the eradication of native coastal forest and the use of rocks to pavement the road. (Photo; courtesy of Mr. Francisco Solís)

Illegal hunt of otters by fishermen in the south of Chiloé Island and fjords zone. (Photo; from Medina 2001)
Crossing rivers and bad roads to access difficult survey sites located in the coastal range at Chiloé Island.

The daily routine; team preparing the base camp after a long day observing otters.
Marine otter team. From the left; Ricardo Alvarez, Ana Pfeifer and Claudio Delgado R.

Team surveying the coast; looking for otter spraints and food remains.