Both the reading and the lecture talk about the population decline of sea otters in…. The reading thinks that the cause of decline is environmental pollution, which is completely different with the occasion in the lecture.

First, the lecture believes that the predation is the most likely cause of sea otter decline, explaning that no one can really find dead sea otters washing off on Alaskan beaches, and if the otter is killed by a predator, it can’t wash up on shore, which is consistent with the predator hypothesis. Such a situation is presented quite differently in the reading. The reading holds that pollution is the more likely cause because oil rigs and other sources of industrial chemical pollution could decrease the otters’ resistance to life-threatening infections and indirectly cause their death.

Second, the lecture claims that orca cause the decline of sea otters, saying that because whales have disappeared from the area because of the human hunters, the orcas have to change their diet. In this case, they have probably started hunting smaller sea mammals-the seals, the sea lions and sea otters. It again challenges what is stated in the reading. The reading harbors the idea that environmental pollution is the most likely cause, because only orcas have the same effect of decline of sea mammals. but orcas only hunt much larger preys.

Finally, the lecture puts forward that the uneven pattern of otter decline is better explained by the orca predation, pointing out that what happens to sea otters depends on whether their location is accessible to orcas or not. A shallow and rocky location where orcas can’t access is precisely where sea otter populations have not declined. The reading however provides an alternative explanation in this point. The reading asserts that pollution cause uneven pattern of otter decline because the ocean currents or other environmental factors may cause uneven concentrations of pollutants along the coast.. good