

Co-occurrence between marine otter (*Lontra felina*) and peruvian scallop aquaculture (*Argopecten purpuratus*)

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Introduction

The marine otter (*Lontra felina*) is an endangered species (Mangel et al., 2022) that lives on the coasts of Peru and Chile, coexisting with humans by inhabiting the marine littoral zone and using the same resources as them (Mangel et al., 2011; Medina-Vogel et al., 2008). The overlap of human economic activities (eg: scallop aquaculture) and otters may pose a risk to the conservation of these animals. Scallop aquaculture is an important economic activity in the regions of Ancash and Ica (Peru) (Oficina de Estudios Económicos del Ministerio de la Producción, 2023), and Coquimbo and Antofagasta (Chile). In Peru for example, scallop aquaculture is a key economic activity that coexists within the Paracas National Reserve with *L. felina*.

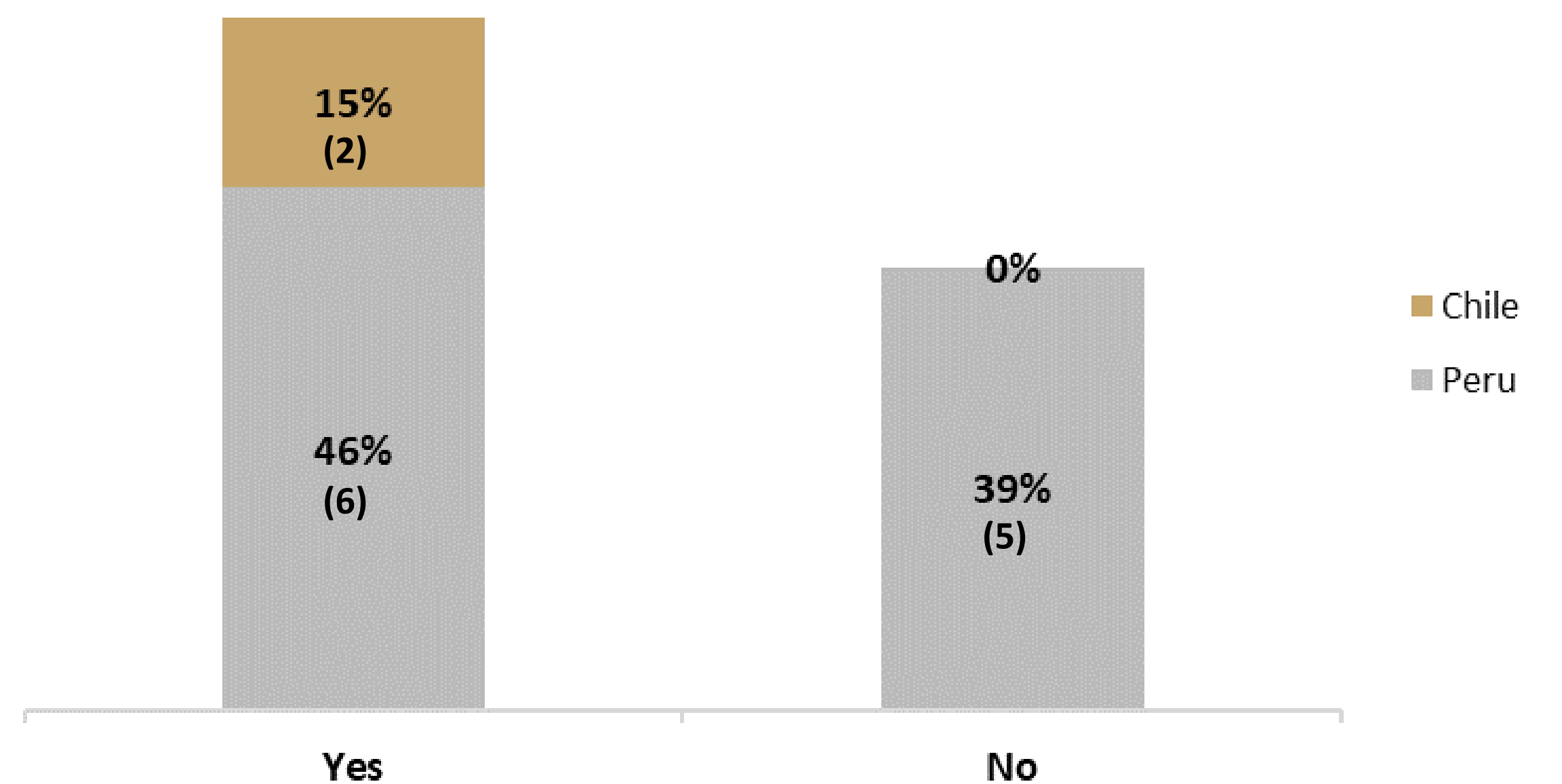


Results

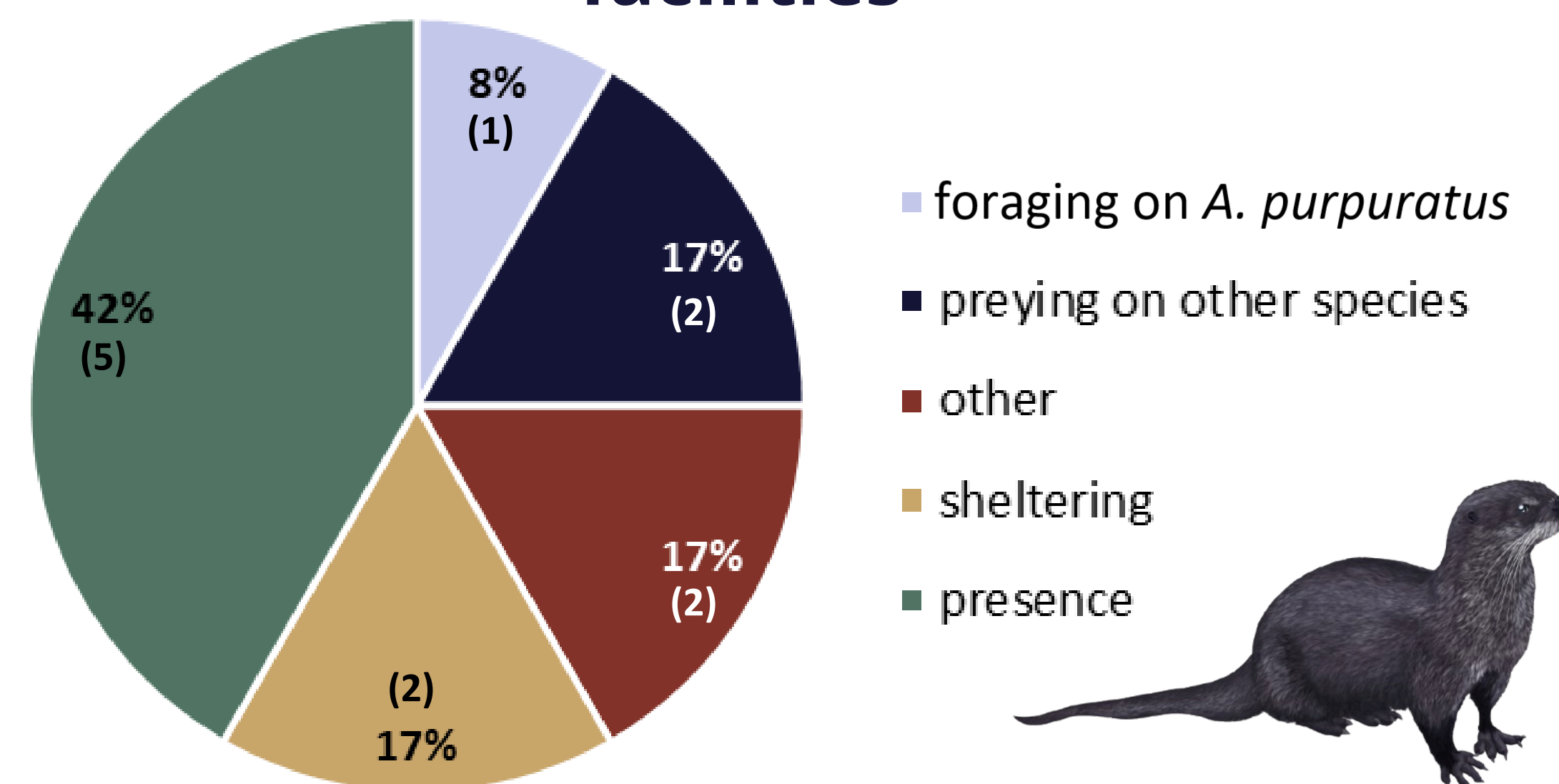
- 11 valid questionnaires from Peru
- 2 valid questionnaires from Chile



Knows of or witnessed either co-occurrence or interaction



Otter activities in or near aquaculture facilities



Objective

Evaluate the co-occurrence between *L. felina* and *Argopecten purpuratus* aquaculture in the regions of Ancash and Ica (Peru), and Coquimbo and Antofagasta (Chile).

Methodology

- online survey
- snowball sampling method (Heckathorn, 2011)
- authorities involved in *A. purpuratus* aquaculture

The questionnaire validation method consisted of identifying *L. felina* correctly.

In Peru, the actions triggered as a response to the presence of otters were chasing away (25%), aggression towards otters (25%), photographic record (25%), and no reaction (25%). In Chile, the reactions listed were to inform the authorities (50%), and no reaction (50%).

Discussion & Conclusions

Aggressive attitudes towards *L. felina* represent a threat to its conservation. Apart from the conflict that predation on *A. purpuratus* may spark, the presence and use of human infrastructure by *L. felina* may lead to interaction with domestic and invasive species, as well as human contaminants.



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