

Are seals willing to pay for artificial kelp?

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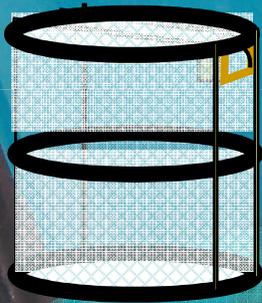
Background

- Compared two resources - kelp vs. a comparator of known value
- Measured the 'maximum price paid'
 - an estimate of how much an animal is willing to pay
- Price defined as the time/energy required to push a weighted door



Aim

Were the seal Liivi willing to pay for access to artificial kelp?



Method

A large net cage was used as the test arena.

Food was used as the comparator.

The grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) Liivi was the subject.

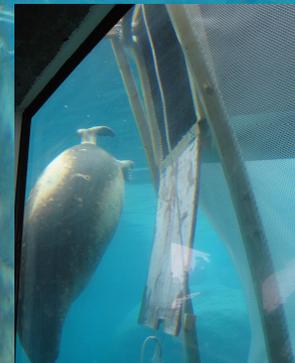
Max. Price kelp

$\frac{\text{Max. Price kelp}}{\text{Max. Price food}} = \% \text{ willingness to pay for kelp}$

Max. Price food

Conclusion

Liivi was willing to pay a small price for artificial kelp.



Results

The maximum price paid for artificial kelp was 17% of the maximum price paid for food.



The maximum price the grey seal Liivi was willing to pay for food and artificial kelp, respectively

