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Photo of the Pacific hatched giant salamander, *Dicamptodon tigrinus*, by Michael J. Haskett, used as a formal inspiration for the book's cover. Photo credit: G. Haskett.

theoretical to prevent us from fully understanding any deviation in this field. By summarizing directly concerns along with relevant measurement procedures, we can increase our chances of making a useful, more relevant and informative assessment of our size sample data to make scientifically and statistically sound conclusions about the population parameters of interest. The measures fall into two broad categories: point estimates and interval estimates. Point estimates are the best single value associated with the total possible population, while interval estimates are usually associated with estimated parameter values. Although there are many different types of point and interval estimators, one of the most common and useful is the maximum likelihood estimator. This estimator has been widely used in management of natural resources and is often used to estimate, for example, estimates of total population size.