OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

BEAVER TRAPPING INFORMATION/REGULATIONS

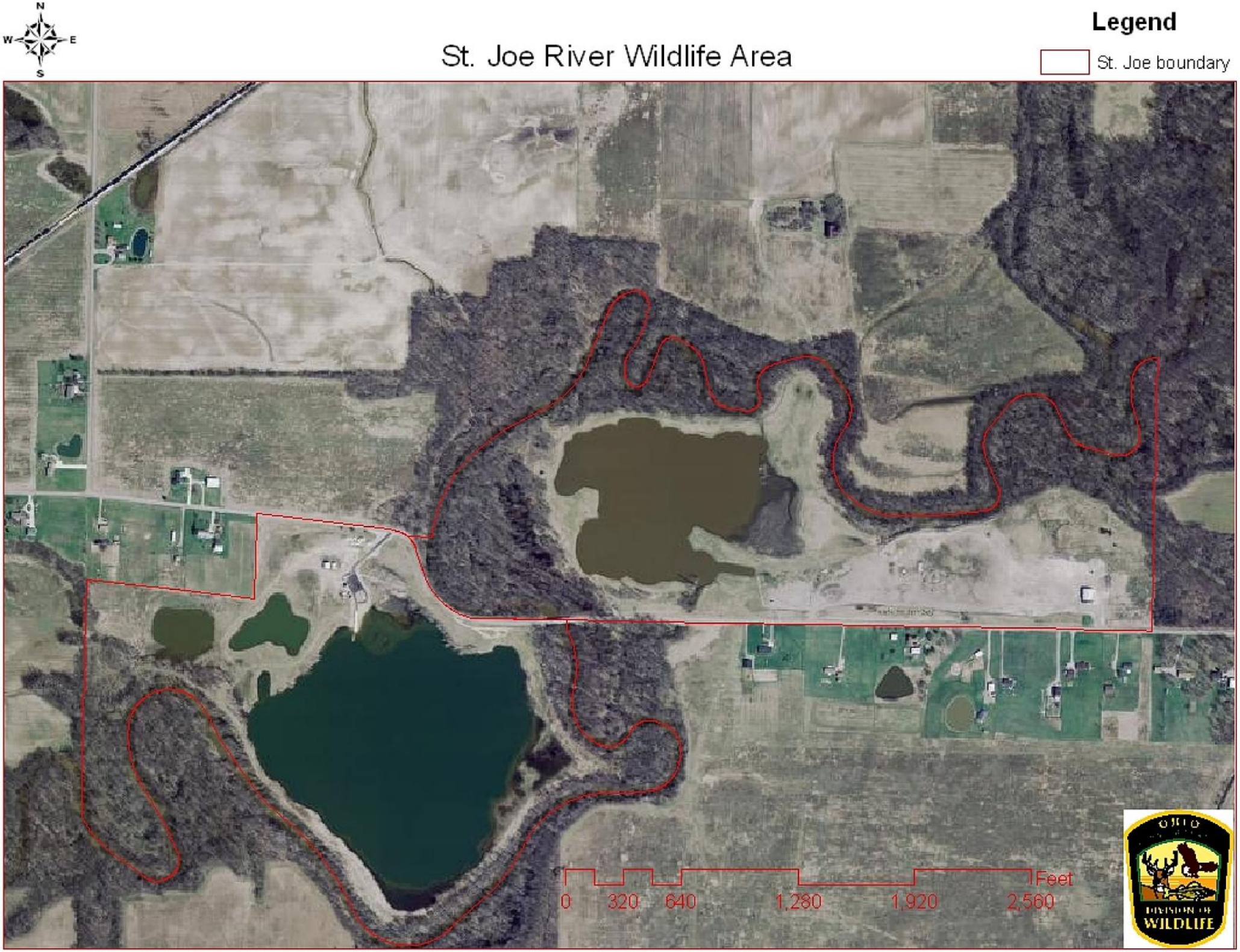
Congratulations for being selected in the ODNR, Division of Wildlife's Beaver Trapping Lottery for St. Joseph River Wildlife Area. Your permit allows you to trap at St. Joseph River Wildlife Area (see enclosed map) and will be valid for the statewide beaver trapping season which runs from December 26, 2013 through February 28, 2014. Please read this document carefully, as you will be required to adhere to all regulations.

- The permit to trap applies to the successfully drawn applicant and one (1) named assistant.
- The assistant may NOT be changed once named.
- Where river otter trapping is allowed, both the permittee and the assistant may trap the legal limit within their Zone. See Publication 088 (Ohio River Otter Trapping Regulations) for zones and limits. On areas where river otter trapping is not allowed, please follow the guidelines in Publication 407 (Techniques to Avoid Trapping River Otters).
- All permitted trappers AND assistants must be properly licensed.
- Beaver Trapping Permits are NOT transferable.
- If a successful applicant is not able to trap an area for which he/she was chosen, the permittee MUST inform the District office so an alternate can be drawn from the pool of applicants.
- Trappers MUST complete and turn in a trapping log for each site for which they are permitted. Logs are due by March 15, 2014. Failure to submit your log(s) will result in your inability to apply for future trapping lotteries.
- All other legal furbearers may be harvested in accordance with established trapping seasons and regulations.
- All state regulations apply as described in the hunting and trapping digest for 2013 and 2014.

SPECIFIC TO YOUR PERMIT:

- Your Beaver Trapping Permit is valid for the St. Joseph River Wildlife Area (see enclosed map). There are no designated units.
- Contact Doug Soards (419-485-9092) for more information.
- Your Beaver Trapping Permit is for beaver only, not river otter.

St. Joe River Wildlife Area



Beaver/River Otter Trapping Log
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife

Page ___of____

Site :		
Trapper's Name (Permit Holder):		
Assistant's Name:		
This log must be carried in the trapper's vehicle and a separate entry made for each beaver/river otter trapped before the vehicle is moved.		

Date Trapped	Sex M/F	Approx. Weight	Beaver or Otter	Log Time	Comments

End of Season Summary

Species	Total days trapped	Average number of traps per day	Total caught	Other species caught and total
Beaver				
Otter				

Mail this log by **MARCH 15**, <u>even if you did not trap</u>, to:

Suzanne Prange
Ohio Division of Wildlife
360 East State Street
Athens, OH 45701

Failure to do so will result in the inability to apply for future trapping lotteries.

DESIGNATED RIVER OTTER CHECK STATIONS:

River otters may be taken to any of the following check stations during established times (M, W, F, 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.) or by appointment, or to any Division of Wildlife district office (M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).

• Wildlife District 1

1500 Dublin Rd., Columbus
(614) 644-3925

1. ***Delaware Wildlife Area***
   8589 Horseshoe Rd., Ashley
   (740) 747-2919
2. ***Hebron Fish Hatchery***
   10517 Canal Rd., SE, Hebron
   (740) 928-8092
3. ***Deer Creek Wildlife Area***
   12552 Post Rd. Rt. 1, Mount Sterling
   (740) 869-2365

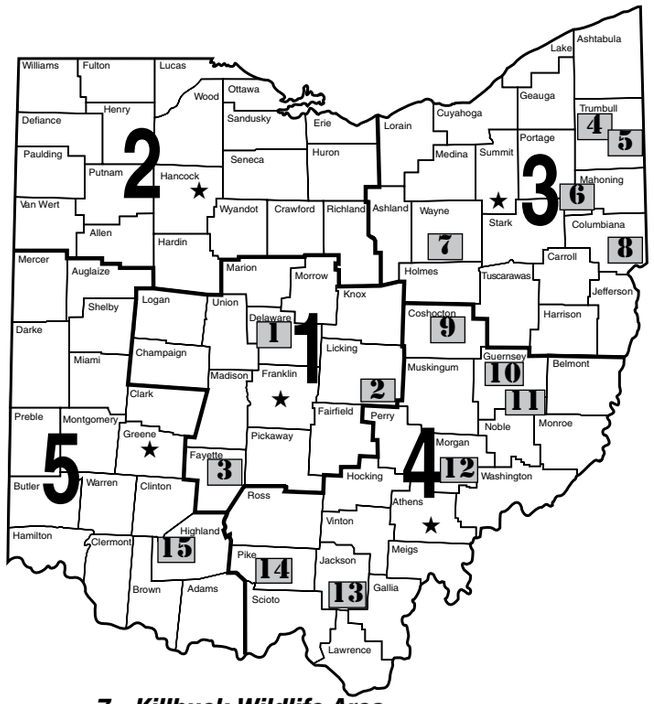
• Wildlife District 2

952 Lima Ave., Findlay
(419) 424-5000

• Wildlife District 3

912 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron
(330) 644-2293

4. ***Grand River Wildlife Area***
   6686 SR 534, Farmington
   (330) 889-3280
5. ***Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area***
   8303 N. Park Avenue, North Bloomfield
   (440) 685-4776
6. ***Berlin Wildlife Area***
   1806 Bonner Rd., Deerfield
   (330) 654-2392



7. ***Killbuck Wildlife Area***
   1691 Centerville Rd., Shreve
   (330) 567-3390
8. ***Highlandtown Wildlife Area***
   16760 Spring Valley Rd., Salineville
   (330) 679-2201

• Wildlife District 4

360 E. State St., Athens
(740) 589-9930

9. ***Woodbury Wildlife Area***
   23371 SR 60 S., Warsaw
   (740) 824-3211
10. ***Salt Fork Wildlife Area***
    67656 Salt Fork WL Hq. Rd., Lore City
    (740) 489-5021
11. ***Senecaville Fish Hatchery***
    57199 Seneca Dam Rd., Senecaville
    (740) 685-5541
12. ***Wolf Creek Wildlife Area***
    961 S SR 78, SW, Malta
    (740) 962-2048
13. ***Cooper Hollow Wildlife Area***
    5403 CH & D Rd., Oak Hill
    (740) 682-7524
14. ***Kincaid Fish Hatchery***
    7487 SR 124, Latham
    (740) 493-2717

• Wildlife District 5

1076 Old Springfield Pike, Xenia
(937) 372-9261

15. ***Fallsville Wildlife Area***
    10221 Careytown Rd. New Vienna
    (937) 987-2508

All state offices will be closed on holidays. Call ahead for details

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Headquarters
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G.
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693
(614) 265-6300 (Voice)
1-800-750-0750 (Ohio Relay-TTY)

1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543)
wildohio.com

Publication 88
(R1110)

Ohio River Otter Trapping Regulations

Regulations are in effect for trapping river otters in Ohio, including season dates, zones, bag limits, and check-in requirements. This pamphlet describes the river otter trapping regulations, and what successful river otter trappers must do after catching a river otter in Ohio.

• SEASON DATES & BAG LIMITS:

River otter trapping is permitted in certain areas of Ohio during the open river otter trapping season which is generally December 26 through the last day of February. Trappers should refer to the current Ohio Hunting Regulations booklet for season dates for river otter trapping.

• ZONES AND BAG LIMITS:

River otters may only be trapped in certain areas of Ohio, and in limited numbers.

Zone A – Closed
Zone B – 1 Otter
Zone C – 3 Otters

The total season bag limit is 3 river otters, of which no more than 1 river otter may be taken in Zone B.

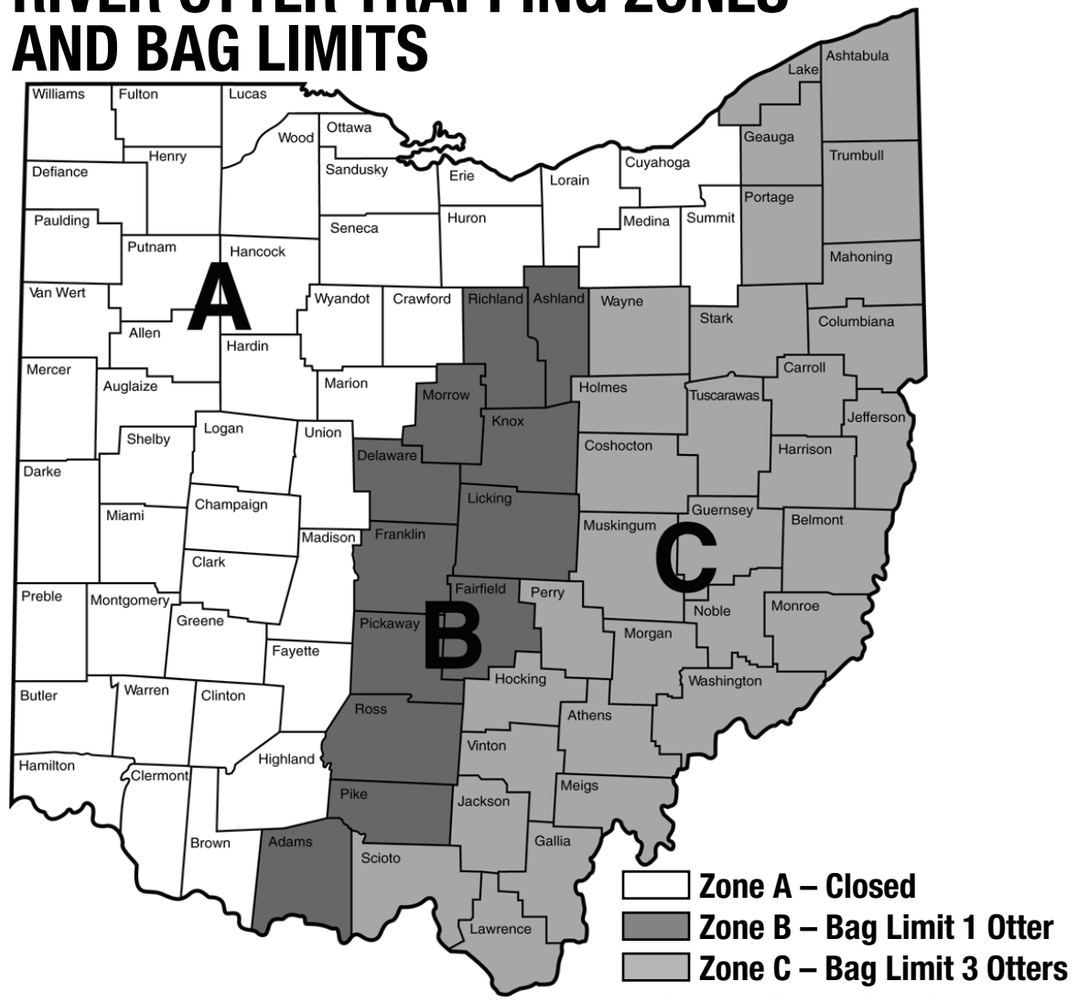
• REQUIRED PERMITS:

Except for landowners and their children trapping on their own property, anyone trapping river otters in Ohio is required to have a valid hunting license and fur taker permit. No additional permits are required for trapping river otters on private lands or Mead Westvaco, B&N Coal and Turkey Run public hunting areas.

Limited river otter trapping opportunity is available on state public hunting areas, including state parks and forests, and is permitted only in areas where beaver populations require active management. A special beaver/river otter trapping permit from the Division of Wildlife is required in addition to a hunting license and fur taker permit by anyone trapping these state public hunting areas, including state parks and forests, in Zone B or Zone C. Contact the Division of Wildlife district office in Akron, Athens, or Columbus for additional information.

Limited river otter trapping is permitted within American Electric Power's recreation area, known as ReCreation Land, Avondale Wildlife Area, and Conesville Coal Lands, with a special beaver/river otter trapping permit issued from the AEP Land Management office in McConnelsville, Ohio. Interested trappers should contact AEP **PRIOR** to October each year.

RIVER OTTER TRAPPING ZONES AND BAG LIMITS



CHECKING AND TAGGING REQUIREMENTS:

The pelt of each river otter must be brought to a designated location for pelt tagging within 72 hours of take. River otters may be taken to a designated check station from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (M, W, F), or by appointment. River otters may also be taken to any Division of Wildlife district office, (M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). Carcass submission is no longer required.

All State Offices will be closed on holidays. Call ahead for details

Each trapper must personally present their own river otter, and may not present a river otter taken by another person. Trappers must also provide a copy of their Fur Taker Permit at the time of checking, and provide information about the date and location in which the river otter was trapped.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Trappers who have reached their season bag limit are encouraged to implement river otter avoidance techniques while beaver trapping.

If you catch an otter in excess of your season bag limit or in a closed zone and it is still alive, carefully release it without causing injury to yourself or the river otter. If the river otter is dead, leave it in the trap and contact the wildlife officer assigned to that county or the District Office immediately to determine the course of action to follow.

is they can be used to make sets away from the otters' travelway, but will still be effective for beavers.

Of all the tools available to Ohio's trappers, the snare, when properly set for a beaver, is least likely to take an otter. For regularly snaring beavers, a loop diameter of 9 to 10 inches is recommended. With this 9- to 10-inch loop, most otters will pass through a snare without being captured.

Alternate Beaver Sets

The beaver sets that show the greatest potential for otter captures are blind sets made in beaver travelways described earlier. Foothold traps, and especially bodygrip traps, set in these travelways where otters are present have a high potential for taking otters. Many times a set made nearby off the travelway can be very effective in taking beavers, yet avoid the vast majority of otters.

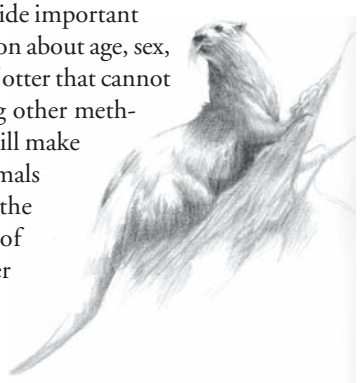
Beavers are highly susceptible to lure and visual attractors, but otters are rarely attracted by beaver sign or odors. Making a castor mound set near the travelway allows you to take the beavers while avoiding otters. Baited sets for beavers that employ peeled sticks and beaver food lures hold almost no attraction for otters.

If You Catch An Otter

While Ohio trappers must make an effort to adjust traps and trap types and use sets that avoid catching otter, it is still possible for an accidental capture to occur. If you catch an otter, and it is alive, carefully release it without causing injury to yourself or the otter.

If the otter is dead, leave it in the trap and immediately contact the wildlife officer assigned to that county, or the district wildlife office to determine what course of action to follow.

Incidentally-trapped otters may be necropsied by the Division to provide important biological information about age, sex, and reproduction of otter that cannot be determined using other methods. The Division will make best use of these animals to help determine the health and status of Ohio's growing otter population.



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952 Lima Avenue
Findlay 45840
(419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three
912 Portage Lakes Drive
Akron 44319
(330) 644-2293

Wildlife District Four
360 E. State Street
Athens 45701
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
1076 Old Springfield Pike
Xenia 45385
(937) 372-9261

Ohio State Trappers Association
1244 Abbe Road
Sheffield, OH 44054

www.ohiodnr.com

Bob Taft, Governor • Samuel W. Speck, Director
Steven A. Gray, Chief
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Publication 407 (R905)

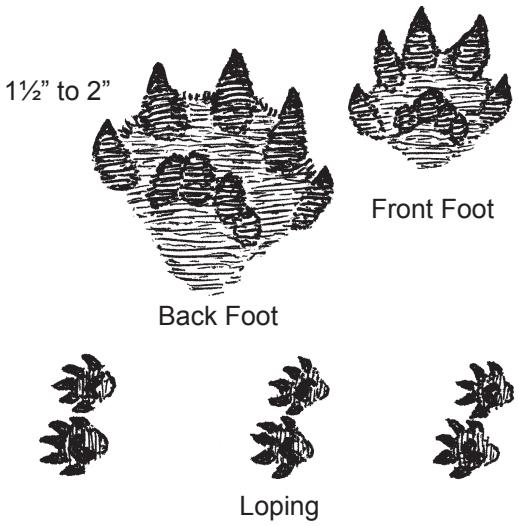
Techniques to Avoid Trapping River Otters

River otters have become more common in Ohio waters following their successful reintroduction from 1986 through 1993. Evidence exists to show that otters are reproducing and expanding their range throughout Ohio. While a limited number of river otters may now be taken in certain areas of the state, trappers who have reached their otter bag limit, or those trapping for beaver in areas closed to otter trapping may still need to employ otter avoidance techniques.

Since otters and beaver utilize the same habitat, there is an increasing potential that Ohio trappers may encounter otters as their numbers and range continue to expand. This pamphlet has been produced under a cooperative agreement between the Ohio State Trappers Association and the ODNR Division of Wildlife to help educate trappers on the best techniques for avoiding accidental otter catches, with a minimal impact on their beaver trapping success. Continuing education will help trappers become more effective in these efforts and improve the Division of Wildlife's ability to manage both beaver and otter populations in Ohio.

Otter Sign

The first step to avoid trapping an otter is to learn to recognize when otters are present on your trapline. Otter tracks resemble those of a mink, but they are much larger, usually two to three inches across. Other signs of otters are toilet or latrine sites. These are typically found on high points along the banks of streams. The vegetation is usually flattened out, and the area may contain flat, runny piles of otter vomit. This vomit is greenish black in color and usually contains a large number of fish scales or crayfish parts. Otter droppings themselves are indistinct clumps of undigested fish bones, fish scales, and crayfish parts. These droppings may be flattened by the otter walking on them. Both vomit piles and otter droppings deteriorate quickly.



Another sign of otters are wallows, or 'scratch ups'. These occur along stream edges and consist of an area three to six feet in diameter where the grass or other vegetation has been raked or scratched into the center of the circle. Often, droppings or vomit will be found there. In snow, flattened trails can be observed where otters slide down the bank on their stomachs.

Locations

Otters can be found almost anywhere. They usually follow streams and other small watercourses, but they will also travel across dry land. However, there are certain places they like to visit more than others.

Otters like to travel from one small watershed to the next looking for food. Any small ditch, creek, or stream that connects to another body of water is likely to be an otter travelway. This is especially true of small drainages that lead to or from a marsh, swamp, or pond where the otters like to hunt.

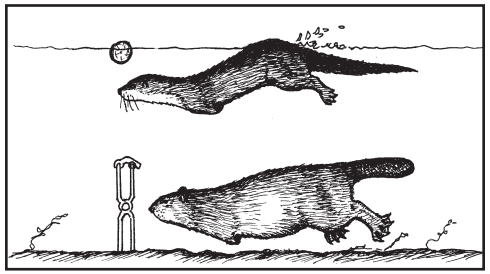
In a beaver flowage, the entrance and exit to a beaver pond are prone to otter travel. The inlet to a beaver pond has a high potential for otter capture as does the crossover on a beaver dam. While this may be a good place to catch a beaver, it also has a high potential for otter capture. This holds true for most crossovers along a beaver travelway, like crossovers near culverts or across manmade levees. Beavers often have well worn trails here, and it's likely that otters will follow the same path on their way through.

Another situation to avoid is an abandoned beaver lodge or bank den. Otters will check these regularly and often use them for temporary shelter when beavers have moved out. These abandoned dens and lodges are not particularly good beaver sets anyway.

Traps

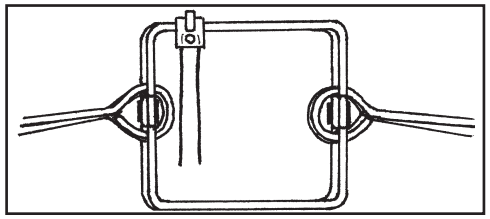
The large #330 bodygrip traps commonly used for beaver trapping have the highest potential for capturing an otter.

You can reduce the otter-capturing potential of a #330 by setting it deep under water. Choose locations that are 2½ to 3 feet deep, or deeper. Put your trap on the bottom and float a dive pole over it. Generally, when a beaver encounters the pole, it will dive all the way to the bottom and get in the trap. An otter, on the other hand, will tend to just duck under the pole and pass over top of the trap.



Setting bodygrip traps deep under water may allow an otter to go over the top of the trap, while most beaver will dive to the bottom and be caught.

Another way to reduce the otter capturing potential of a #330 is to move the trigger wires all the way to one side of the trap and point them straight down. This will give a slender otter the chance to get through the trap, while a beaver will probably fire the trap. You can also add a second trigger to a #330, placing one trigger on each side of the trap, with the wires pointing straight down. An otter will tend to hug one side of the trap and hit only one trigger. Whereas, a beaver will probably hit both triggers.

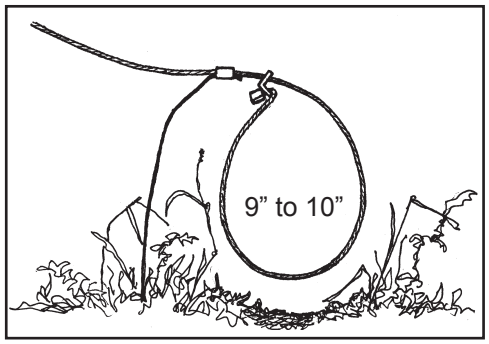


Moving the trigger completely to one side of a bodygrip trap can leave room for an otter to get through.

There are also some new #330 triggers available on which the tension can be adjusted with a bolt. Tightening the tension on the trigger and setting the trigger to one side can help preclude otter captures.

Still, the #330 in any configuration has a high potential for taking otters. If otter sign is present, you should avoid using #330s at key otter locations.

Foothold traps are less susceptible to catching otters, provided they are set deeply under water. However, foothold traps that are set shallow in trails that may be frequented by otters have a high potential for taking one of these animals. The main advantage of foothold traps



A snare set with a loop of 9 to 10 inches will allow an otter to pass through, but will still catch beaver.