Controlled Trapping Rules
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife

Product name:

- 2996-CASCADE WA BEAVER-OTTER TRAPPING

Contact information:

- For questions about this permit contact Travis Kruse; 9455 Co. Rd. R, Pioneer, 43554; 419-340-6523.

The following rules and information apply:

- Each permittee or transferee may select one (1) partner. Prior to the permit start date, the name of the partner must be provided to the contact listed above, and the permittee must write the name and customer ID of the partner in ink on the trapping log.
- Permit valid for the permittee or transferee listed on the permit and partner only.
- Permit valid for the date(s) listed on the permit only.
- Permittee and partner are responsible for obtaining necessary permits, license, and stamps. Refer to the Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations for permit requirements.
- Permit must be carried by the permittee or transferee while in use. Digital copies are sufficient.
- A permittee may transfer their permit to another fur taker permit holder if the transfer is completed prior to the permit start date. The original permittee is responsible for contacting the contact listed above and providing the name and customer ID number of the transferee.
- **Permits are non-transferable after the permit start date.** If the permittee is unable to participate or chooses not to participate, they should contact the contact listed above so that an alternate trapper may be assigned.
- Beaver may be harvested.
- Permittees are required to submit the attached trapping log for each permit, even if no trapping occurred. Logs are due by March 15. Failure to submit your log(s) will result in your inability to apply for future trapping lotteries.
- All other Division rules and regulations apply.

Additional rules and information:

- In addition to beaver, permittee and partner may trap the legal limit of otter. Once the legal limit has been reached, trappers should use otter avoidance techniques to avoid incidental take (see attached Techniques to Avoid Trapping River Otters).

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

Product: 2996-CASCADE WA BEAVER-OTTER TRAPPING	**Unit:**
Permittee Name:	**Customer ID:**
Partner Name:	**Customer ID:**
Were you able to participate in this controlled trapping opportunity? ☐Yes ☐No	

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. (Attach additional pages if needed.)

Date Trapped	***Sex M/F***	***Approx. Weight***	***Beaver or Otter***

Return this log by **MARCH 15** even if you did not trap. Failure to do so will result in the inability to apply for future trapping lotteries.

Scan and email to:
Catherine.dennison@dnr.ohio.gov

Or, submit by mail to:
Katie Dennison
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G-1
Columbus, OH 43229

End of Season Summary*

Species	***Total Days Trapped***	***Average Number of Traps per Day***	***Total Caught***
Beaver			
Otter			
Muskrat			
Mink			
Raccoon			
Skunk			
Opossum			
Coyote			
Gray Fox			
Red Fox			
Weasel			

*Please complete the end of season summary for all species that you targeted and/or trapped within this public land unit.

CASCADE WILDLIFE AREA



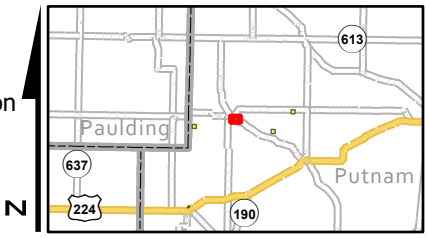
Parking Area
Boat Ramps
Wildlife Area Road
Municipal and County Roads
State
Wildlife Area Boundary

0 0.1 0.2 Mile

Date Published: 5/19/2022

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Visit us on the web
WILDOHIO.GOV
For General Information
1-800-WILDLIFE
Download the
HuntFish OH App





North American River Otter tracks at right are shown at 50% of actual size:

Front:
2 - 3.5" long
2 - 3" wide

Hind:
2-4" long
2-4" wide



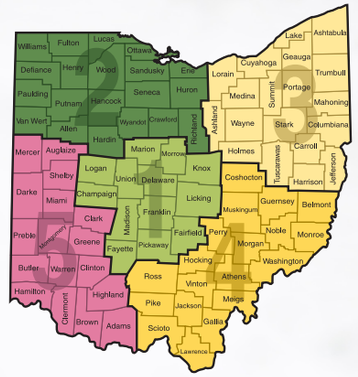
River otters have become more common in Ohio waters following their successful reintroduction from 1986 through 1993. Otters have expanded their range and can now be found in waterways throughout most of the state.While river otters may now be harvested in limited numbers statewide,, trappers who have reached their otter bag limit, may 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.

River Otter Tracks and Signs

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 multiple piles of scat of various ages. Otter scat can be tubular in shape, or appear as indistinct clumps of undigested fish bones, fish scales, and crayfish parts. These droppings may be flattened by the otter walking on them and generally deteriorate quickly. Otters also excrete a yellowish or brown gelatinous substance, which is thought to be used in scent marking, and is often found at latrine sites.

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 will be found there. In snow, flattened trails can be observed where otters slide down the bank on their stomachs.



TECHNIQUES TO AVOID TRAPPING RIVER OTTERS

Headquarters
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G
Columbus 43229-6693
1-800-WILDLIFE

District One
1500 Dublin Road
Columbus 43215

District Two
952 Lima Avenue
Findlay 45840

District Three
912 Portage Lakes Drive
Akron 44319

District Four
360 E. State Street
Athens 45701

District Five
1076 Old Springfield Pike
Xenia 45385

VISIT US ON THE WEB
WILDOHIO.GOV

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION
1-800-WILDLIFE
(1-800-945-3543)

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INSTAGRAM
instagram.com/your_wild_ohio

LINKEDIN
linkedin.com/company/ohio-division-of-wildlife



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COVER: RIVER OTTER
by Tim Daniel

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
wildohio.gov



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 travel way. This is especially true of small drainages that lead to or from a marsh, swamp, or pond where the otters like to hunt.

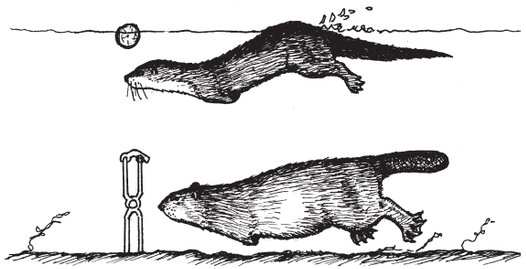
In a beaver flowage, the entrance and exit to a beaver pond are prone to otter travel. The inlet to a beaver pond has a high potential for otter capture as does the crossover on a beaver dam. While this may be a good place to catch a beaver, it also has a high potential for otter capture. This holds true for most crossovers along a beaver travel way, 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 location 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 body grip traps commonly used for beaver trapping have the highest potential for capturing an otter.

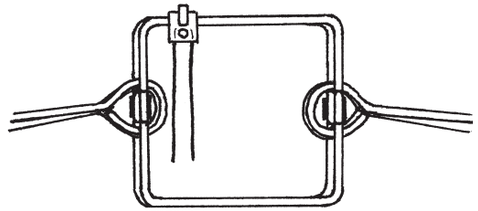
You can reduce the otter-capturing potential of a #330 by setting it deep under water. Choose locations that are 2½ to 3 feet deep, or deeper. Put your trap on the bottom and float a dive pole over it. Generally, when a beaver encounters the pole, it will dive all the way to the bottom and get in the 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, point them straight down, and place a stick in the mud in front of the trigger. 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. Using tension-adjustable triggers or two-way triggers (triggers that don't spring when pushed sideways) may also help reduce the risk of capturing an otter.

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



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

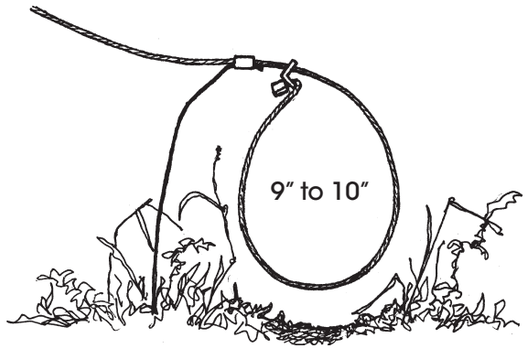
Of all the tools available to Ohio's trappers, the snare, when properly set for a beaver, is least likely to take an otter. For regularly snaring beavers, a loop diameter of 9 to 10 inches is recommended, with an added loop "stop" to prevent the loop from closing tighter than 4 inches. With this 9- to 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 travel ways described earlier. Foothold traps, and especially bodygrip traps, set in these travel ways where otters are present have a high potential for taking otters. Many times a set made nearby off the travel way 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 travel way 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.

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



IF YOU CATCH AN OTTER

While Ohio trappers must try 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.

