Product name:
- 2915-DELAWARE WILDLIFE AREA BEAVER-OTTER TRAPPING

Contact information:
- For questions about this permit contact Rob Batterson; 8589 Horseshoe Rd, Ashley, 43003; 614-424-9985.

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).
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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Trapped</th>
<th>Sex M/F</th>
<th>Approx. Weight</th>
<th>Beaver or Otter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Total Days Trapped</th>
<th>Average Number of Traps per Day</th>
<th>Total Caught</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Otter</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Muskrat</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mink</td>
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<td>Raccoon</td>
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<td>Skunk</td>
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<td>Opossum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coyote</td>
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<td>Gray Fox</td>
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<td>Red Fox</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weasel</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Please complete the end of season summary for all species that you targeted and/or trapped within this public land unit.
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 ot-
er, 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 imme-
diately 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 meth-
ods. The Division will make
best use of these animals to help determine the
health and status of
Ohio’s growing otter
population.

River otters have become more common in Ohio
waters following their successful reintroduction from
1986 through 1993. Otters are reproducing and ex-
anding 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 avoid-
ing 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.

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 in 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.

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.

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

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.

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

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