

Ohio River Otter Trapping Regulations **2005-06 wc-846**

New regulations are in effect for trapping river otters in Ohio, including season dates, zones, bag limits, and check-in requirements. In addition to the general trapping regulations described in the 2005-06 Ohio Hunting Regulations booklet, the following regulations also apply to river otter trapping, and describes what successful trappers must do after catching a river otter in Ohio.

Season Dates: The river otter season opens December 26, 2005 and closes February 28, 2006.

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.

Checking and Tagging Requirements: The pelt and skinned carcass of each river otter must be brought to a designated location for pelt tagging and carcass submission within 72 hours of take. River otters may be taken to a designated check station from 8:00 am to 9:00 am (M, W, F), or by appointment. River otters may also be taken to any District office, (M-F, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm). 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 a river 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 immediately contact the Wildlife Officer assigned to that county or the District Office to determine the course of action to follow.

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 am – 9:00 am) or by appointment, or to any District Office (M-F, 8:00 – 5:00).

Wildlife District 1 • 1500 Dublin Rd., Columbus 43215 (614) 644-3925.

1. Delaware Wildlife Area - 8589 Horseshoe Rd., Ashley 43003 (740) 747-2919

2. Hebron Fish Hatchery - 10517 Canal Rd., SE, Hebron 43025 (740) 928-8092

3. Deer Creek Wildlife Area - 12552 Post Rd. Rt. 1, Mount Sterling 43143 (740) 869-2365

Wildlife District 2 • 952 Lima Ave., Findlay 45840 (419) 424-5000.

Wildlife District 3 • 912 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron 44319 (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 44411 (330) 654-2392.
7. Killbuck Wildlife Area -1691 Centerville Rd., Shreve (330) 567-3390.
8. Highlandtown Wildlife Area -16760 Spring Valley Rd., Salineville 43945 (330) 679-2201.

Wildlife District 4 • 360 E. State St., Athens 45701 (740) 589-9930.

9. Woodbury Wildlife Area - 23371 SR 60 S., Warsaw 43844 (740) 824-3211.
10. Salt Fork Wildlife Area - 67656 Salt Fork WL Hq. Rd., Lore City 43755 (740) 489-5021.
11. Senecaville Fish Hatchery - 57199 Seneca Dam Rd., Senecaville 43780 (740) 685-5541.
12. Tri-Valley Wildlife Area -5960 Memory Rd., Zanesville 43701 (740) 454-8296.
13. Wolf Creek Wildlife Area -961 S SR 78, SW., Malta 43758 (740) 962-2048.
14. Cooper Hollow Wildlife Area -5403 CH & D Rd., Oak Hill 45656 (740) 682-7524.
15. Kincaid Hatchery -7487 SR 124, Latham 45646 (740) 493-2717.

Wildlife District 5 • 1076 Old Springfield Pike, Xenia 45385 (937) 372-9261.

16. Fallsville Wildlife Area - 10221 Careytown Rd. New Vienna 45159 (937) 987-2508.