

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

River Otter Hunting and Trapping Season Chapters 41:08:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 6-7, 2021	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 8, 2021	Watertown
	Finalization	July 8-9, 2021	Watertown

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2021 season

Requirements and Restrictions:

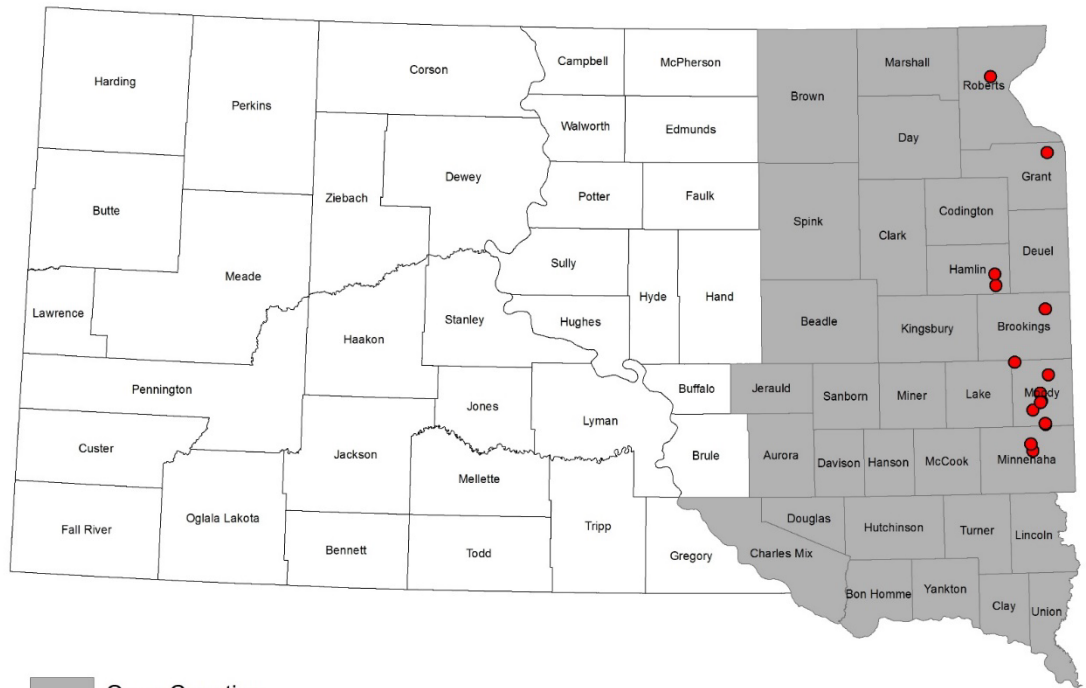
1. Season is open from sunrise on November 1 to sunset on December 31.
2. Open area includes the following counties in eastern South Dakota: Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Clark, Clay, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Douglas, Grant, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Marshall, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Turner, Union and Yankton.
3. Limit of one river otter per season, per trapper/hunter.
4. Harvest limit of 15 river otters. Season will end prior to December 31 if the harvest limit is reached.
5. Season open to residents only with a furbearer license.
6. A river otter shall be reported to the Department within 24 hours of harvest. At time of reporting, arrangements will be made to check-in carcass and detached pelt at a GFP office or designated location for registration and tagging of the pelt within 5 days of harvest. Additionally, once the season has closed (last day of season or harvest limit reached), a person has 24 hours to notify the Department of a harvested river otter.
7. The pelt shall be removed from the carcass and the carcass shall be surrendered to the Department. After the pelt has been tagged, it shall be returned to the trapper. Upon request, the carcass may be returned to the trapper after the carcass has been inspected and biological data collected.
8. Any river otter harvested after the 24-hour period following the close of the season, will be considered incidental take and shall be surrendered to the Department.
9. A person may only possess, purchase or sell raw river otter pelts that are tagged through the eyeholes with the tag provided by the Department or if the river otter was harvested on tribal or trust land of an Indian reservation or another state and is properly and securely tagged with a tag supplied by the governmental entity issuing the license.

Proposed changes from last year: Maintain a harvest limit of 15 river otters but if 15 river otters are harvested on or before November 10, 2021, then an additional 5 river otters would be added to the harvest limit for the remainder of the season (i.e. harvest limit of 20 total river otters).

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The inaugural river otter season ended with the harvest limit of 15 (9 males and 6 females) being reached on November 6, 2020. Harvest by county included the following: Moody (8), Hamlin (2), Minnehaha (2), and one each from Brookings, Grant, and Roberts counties. The Department recommends no change to the current season structure to monitor harvest trends and other population information.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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- Open Counties
- Harvest Locations

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Not applicable.
2. Historical Considerations – Not applicable.
3. Biological Considerations – Not applicable.
4. Social Considerations – Not applicable.
5. Financial considerations – Not applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate? Not applicable.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Not applicable.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Not applicable.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact to the Department.

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____