

# GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## River Otter Trapping and Hunting Season

Chapter 41:08:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 8-9, 2023	Good Earth State Park
	Public Hearing	Sept 7, 2023	Watertown
	Finalization	Sept 7-8, 2023	Watertown

### SEASON INFORMATION

**Duration of Recommendation:** 2023 and 2024 hunting and trapping seasons

**Season Dates:** Sunrise on November 1 to sunset on December 31 or until 20 river otters have been harvested, whichever occurs first.

**Open unit:** 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 Counties.

**Season limit:** One river otter per season per individual.

#### **Requirements and Restrictions:**

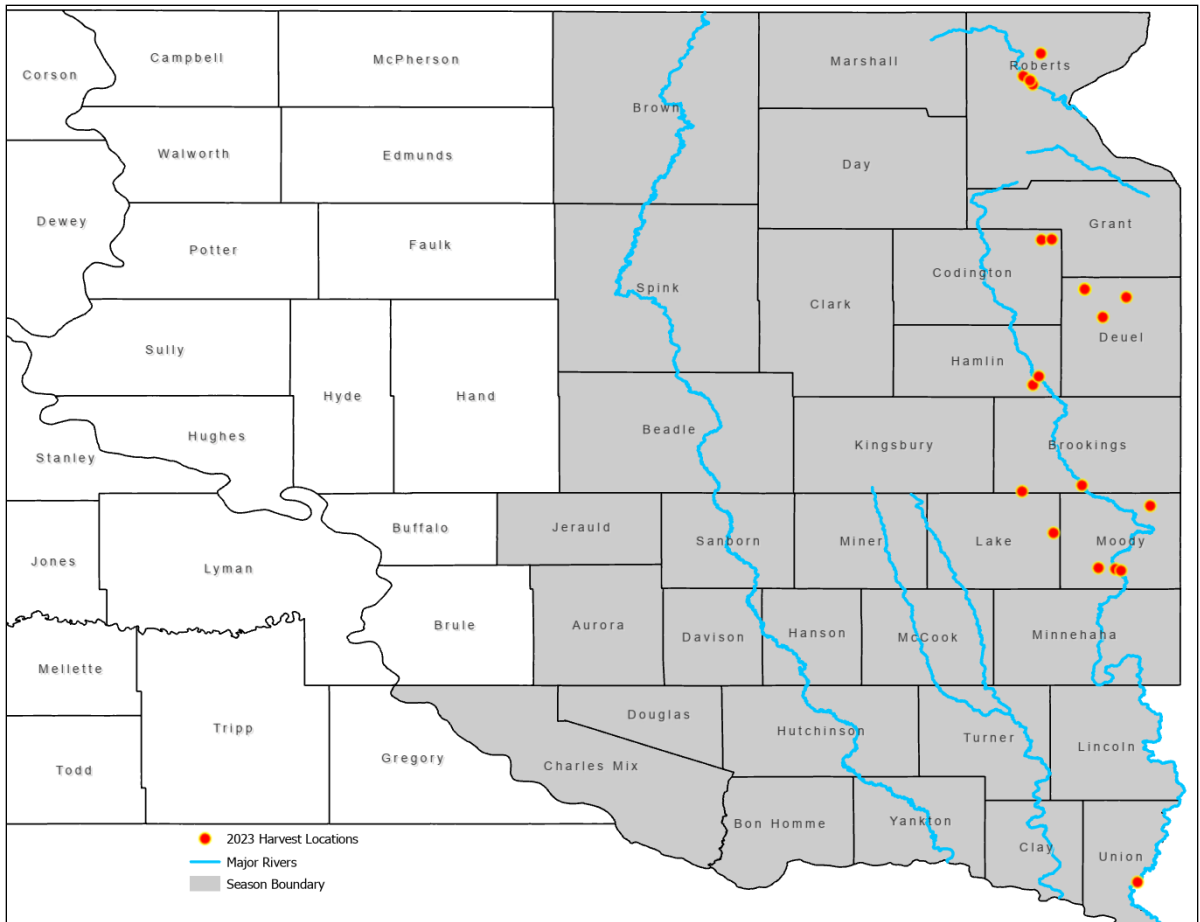
1. Open to residents only with furbearer license.
2. River otter shall be reported to the Department within 24 hours of harvest. At time of reporting, arrangements will be made to check-in carcass and detached pelt at a GFP office or designated location for registration and tagging of the pelt within 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

**Recommended changes from last year:** None

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The 2022 river otter hunting/trapping season began November 1 with a harvest limit of 20 river otters. This harvest limit was reached on November 13 and the season officially closed November 14 with a total of 21 river otters harvested. River otters were harvested in Brookings (2), Deuel (4), Moody (4), Roberts (5), Hamlin (2), Lake (1), Union (1), and Codington counties (2) within the designated open season boundary. Harvest trends and population demographics are continually being collected for population monitoring efforts.



#### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

#### RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate?
  - a. NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
  - a. NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?
  - a. NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?
  - a. NA

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_