

FEASIBILITY STATEMENTS FOR RIVER OTTER MANAGEMENT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

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Goal: Maintain otter population at current level.

Abundance Objective: Maintain otter population at the 1985 level (estimated at 21,000) through 1990.

Harvest Objective: Maintain opportunity (season length and timing) and average harvest (currently 700 otter) at 1985 levels through 1990.

Desirability: These objectives may be desirable to trappers, as they provide for continued opportunity to pursue otters. Non-consumptive users of otters should also find the goal and objectives desirable, as opportunities to view otter will be maintained.

Feasibility: These objectives can be accomplished under current harvest regulations, provided trapping effort remains at current levels.

Capability of Habitat: Otter habitat throughout the State is capable of supporting otter populations at 1985 level.

Possible Consequences: Current harvests are not limiting otter populations, which may increase in some WMU's. Under most circumstances, an increase in otter numbers would have little consequence, but conflict with fish cultural activities may occur on a local basis. Changes in federal regulations concerning export of otter pelts may affect trapping effort. Fluctuations in the market value of otter and/or beaver pelts may also impact the effort placed on trapping otter.