



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

April 20, 2018

TO: Keith Creagh, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Extension of Beaver and Otter Season in the Upper Peninsula and the Northern Lower Peninsula

Authority:

Under the authority of Section 40108, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40108, the Director may issue an interim order if "...the animal is threatening public safety or inflicting damage to horticulture, agriculture, or other property..." Prolonged severe winter conditions in the Upper Peninsula and the Northern Lower Peninsula make it difficult to address public safety and damage issues caused by beavers within the regular season.

Discussion and Background:

The spring portion of the beaver trapping season is often used to try and address beaver nuisance, damage, and public safety issues prior to the close of the trapping season. Weather conditions in Upper Peninsula and the Northern Lower Peninsula made it difficult for trappers to resolve these issues. As a result, the Department is extending the time available to complete the seasons trapping activities.

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Recommendation:

We recommend that this Interim Order be issued.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Deb Begalle, Chief
Forest Resources Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division

William O'Neill
Natural Resources Deputy

INTERIM ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 1 of 2018

Under the authority of section 40108, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40108, I HEREBY ORDER that effective April 20, 2018 and remaining effective until October 20, 2018, the following section of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.607 Beaver and otter trapping, resident and nonresident open seasons; season limits; requirements.

Sec. 3.607 (1) The open seasons and season limits for taking beaver and otter by trap for each of the respective management units are as shown in table 12:

TABLE 12 Beaver and Otter Trapping Seasons and Limits	
Resident Beaver and Otter Season	Season Limits
Unit A -- October 25 to the first Sunday following April 11, except the ending season date for all designated trout streams, as described in FO 210.03, shall be April 30	No limit on beaver; 3 otter per resident fur harvester of which no more than 2 shall be taken in Unit B and no more than 1 shall be taken in Unit C
Unit B -- November 1 to the first Sunday following April 11	
Unit C -- November 10 to March 31	
Nonresident Beaver Seasons	Season Limits
Unit A -- November 15 to the first Sunday following April 11	No limit on beaver
Unit B -- November 24 to the first Sunday following April 11	
Unit C -- December 15 to March 31	

(a) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this order, the resident beaver and otter ending season date for Unit A and Unit B shall be April 30 for the following:

- (i) Trappers with traps set on or prior to the first Sunday following April 11.
- (ii) Trappers with traps set on Unit A designated trout streams as described in FO 210.18.

(2) In addition to the requirements of section 3.600, an individual taking beaver and otter shall meet all of the following requirements:

(a) Through the last day of the open otter season, a resident issued a fur harvester's license may obtain a free otter kill tag. A resident who intends to trap otter shall request and be issued up to 3 free otter kill tags. A resident shall not sell, loan, or permit in any manner, another individual to use the otter kill tag or use or attempt to use another individual's otter kill tag. Free otter kill tags may be obtained only by a resident who is at least 8 years old, subject to section 2.14. An individual who kills an otter shall immediately validate the kill tag by notching out the appropriate information on the tag and attach the kill tag to the hide of the otter from the upper jaw to the eye socket or through the lower jaw in a secure and permanent manner. An individual shall not tag an otter with a kill tag that is not valid for the unit in which the otter is taken. This kill tag shall remain attached to the otter until the animal is registered and sealed by the department. An individual shall not possess an otter or otter hide that is not tagged with a validated kill tag unless a department seal is attached as provided by subsection (b).

(b) An individual that kills an otter shall present the pelt and skull of the otter to the department to be registered and sealed no later than 10 days following the close of the season in which it was taken but no later than 3 business days following April 30. The pelt and skull shall be presented for sealing in person by the resident fur harvester that

killed the animal and shall not be presented for sealing or registration by another individual. The individual presenting the otter pelt and skull shall display their fur harvester license; including identification used to acquire the license and shall provide harvest information as requested by the department employee. The department employee shall retain the skull and attach an official seal to the pelt of each otter presented for examination and shall lock the seal upon the hide in such a manner that it cannot be removed without cutting or ripping the otter pelt or damaging the seal. An official seal attached by the department, shall not be removed from the otter pelt until the otter pelt is processed or tanned. Subsequent to 3 business days following April 30, it shall be unlawful to possess an otter pelt without an official department seal attached unless the pelt has been processed or tanned or the otter season is open.

(c) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this order, up to 10 muskrat, taken in beaver or otter sets, may be considered part of the season limit.

(d) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this order, a snare may be used for taking beaver in water or under ice. Snares shall be made of 1/16 inch or larger cable. Snares not under ice must have a loop which is at least half submerged and be set in a fashion to hold the beaver completely submerged. Snares shall be removed from the water and made inoperative within 24 hours after the close of the period in which snares may be used to take beaver.

Issued at Lansing, Michigan, this 20th day of April, 2018.

Keith Creagh
Director