

**Proposed Interim Rule**  
LSA Document #24-226

**PROPOSED INTERIM RULE**

**SECTION 1. (a) This SECTION supersedes 312 IAC 9-3-18.2.**

**(b) An individual may trap a river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) beginning November 15 and ending either:**

- (1) March 15 of the following calendar year; or**
- (2) the date the statewide quota set forth in subsection (g) is reached;**

**whichever is earlier. An individual who sets a trap for a river otter must be at least ten (10) years of age, unless the individual passed a state certified trapper education course.**

**(c) Except as provided under IC 14-22-11-1, an individual may not trap a river otter unless the individual holds at least one (1) of the following Indiana trapping licenses:**

- (1) A resident yearly trapping license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(4).**
- (2) A nonresident yearly trapping license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(7).**
- (3) A resident youth consolidated hunting, trapping, and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24) or IC 14-22-11-10(b).**
- (4) A nonresident youth yearly trapping license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(26).**
- (5) A lifetime basic trapping license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(6) before its repeal.**

**(d) An individual may not take more than two (2) river otters in a river otter trapping season. An individual who sets a trap that captures a river otter shall count the river otter toward the bag limit for the river otter trapping season.**

**(e) An individual who traps a river otter alive and does not include it in the individual's bag limit shall release the river otter into the wild, in the location where the river otter is captured immediately after discovering a river otter is caught in the trap.**

**(f) An individual may trap a river otter in any county in the state.**

**(g) The statewide quota for a river otter that may be taken during a river otter trapping season is seven hundred fifty (750) river otters. The department of natural resources (department) shall track the statewide quota for river otters on the department's website.**

**(h) An individual shall not trap a river otter after the:**

- (1) individual's bag limit is reached; or**
- (2) river otter trapping season ends.**

**(i) An individual who takes a river otter shall report the take, or ensure the take is reported, by providing the information required by the department's electronic harvest reporting system not later than twenty-four (24) hours after taking the river otter. An individual reporting a take under this subsection shall provide accurate information to the department. An individual shall keep the confirmation number provided by the department's electronic harvest reporting system with the river otter until the river otter is checked in with a designated department employee or at an official river otter checking station.**

**(j) An individual who takes a river otter during the river otter trapping season shall retain possession of the river otter and ensure the river otter's skinned hide and carcass, including the head, is delivered to a designated department employee or an official river otter checking station not later than fifteen (15) days after the month the river otter is harvested. The department employee shall:**

- (1) issue a tag and attach it to each hide under 50 CFR 23.69\*; and**
- (2) retain possession of the skinned river otter carcass.**

**(k) A river otter, including the hide and any other part of the river otter, taken during the river otter trapping season may not be:**

- (1) sold;**
- (2) traded;**
- (3) bartered;**
- (4) gifted;**
- (5) transferred to a taxidermist or any other person; or**
- (6) shipped;**

**until the river otter is registered through the department's electronic registration system and issued a tag by a department employee under subsection (j).**

**(l) After registering the river otter and receiving the tag from the department under subsection (j), an individual who takes a river otter may:**

- (1) sell;**
- (2) trade;**
- (3) barter;**
- (4) ship; or**
- (5) otherwise transfer;**

**the hide of the river otter under this SECTION and 50 CFR 23.69\*.**

**(m) An individual may keep the untanned hide of a river otter lawfully captured at any time of year.**

**(n) An individual may not possess a live river otter except as follows:**

- (1) With a wild animal rehabilitation permit under 312 IAC 9-10-9.**
- (2) With a scientific purposes license under 312 IAC 9-10-6.**
- (3) With a nuisance wild animal control permit under 312 IAC 9-10-11.**
- (4) With a registered or licensed educational or scientific institution with the United States Department of Agriculture under 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts I through IV.**
- (5) With a breeder, a dealer, or an exhibitor license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture under 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts I through IV.**

**(o) An individual may not sell a live river otter unless the individual has a breeder, a dealer, or an exhibitor license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture under 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts I through IV.**

**(p) An individual who takes a river otter with a trap that captures and immediately kills the river otter:**

- (1) during the river otter trapping season, after the individual's bag limit is met; or**
- (2) outside the river otter trapping season;**

**shall notify the department not later than forty-eight (48) hours after taking the river otter. The individual shall make arrangements to turn the river otter over to the department.**

**\*This document is incorporated by reference. Copies may be obtained from the Government Publishing Office, [www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov), or are available for review at the Natural Resources Commission, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, N103, Indianapolis, IN 46204.**

SECTION 2. This document takes effect on the date and time the interim final rule is accepted for filing with the publisher.

SECTION 3. This document expires three hundred sixty-five (365) days after the interim final rule is accepted for filing with the publisher.

*LSA Document #24-226*

*Approved by Governor: May 24, 2024*

