

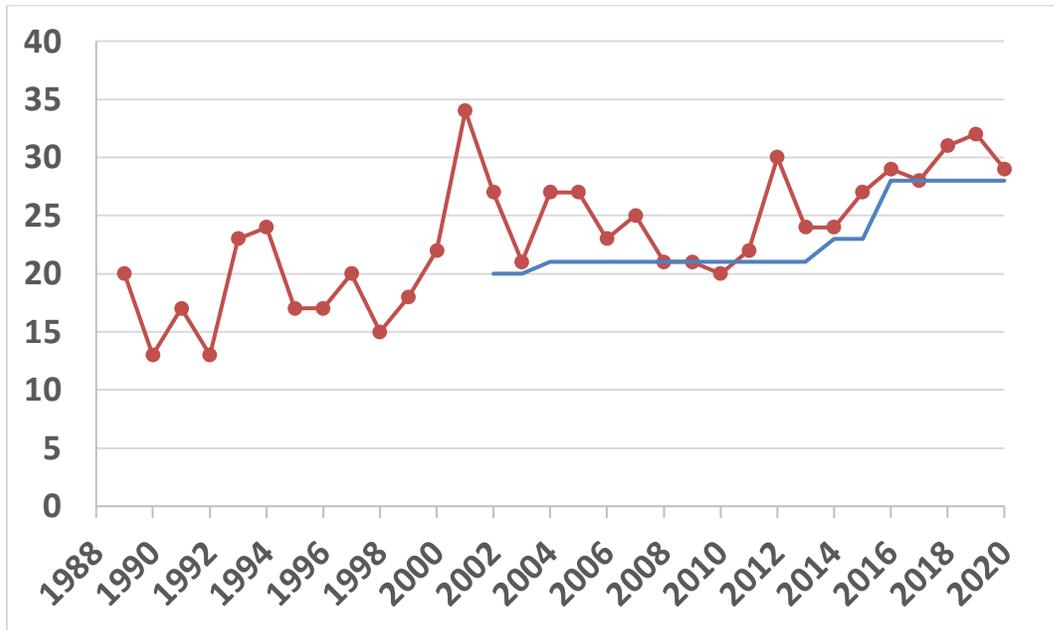
**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
HUNTING SEASON-QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Species: River Otter
Region: 1
Year: 2021

1. Describe the proposed season-quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (e.g., prior history of permits, season types).

Increase the harvest quota of river otter in R-1 from 28 to 40, and the personal quota from 3 to 4 otters/trapper beginning with the 2021 season.

Legal otter harvest is a function of the harvest quota. Prior to 2002, there was a 1 otter/person limit. In 2002, a harvest quota of 20 with a personal quota of 3 otters/trapper was established. In 2016, the quota was raised to 28, and we typically exceeded the harvest quota by about 1 annually. The additional harvest beyond the quota are typically incidental to beaver trapping. Most of the otter harvest occurs in Flathead and Lincoln Counties.



2. Why is the proposed change necessary?

A change in the harvest regulation for otters is not necessary; however, anecdotal information suggests that we could increase harvest without negatively impacting the otter population in Region 1. Currently, we have no evidence of overharvest, and more opportunity for harvest may exist.

- 3. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).**

Although we do not formally survey river otters, anecdotal information suggests that otters are relatively abundant across the region. Harvest is currently distributed relatively evenly across the region, as well.

- 4. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, temperature-precipitation information).**

Otter habitat is abundant in Region 1.

- 5. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).**

This proposal is a result of a joint meeting of Montana FWP, The Montana Trapper's Association (MTA), Montana Fur Harvester's (MFH), and trappers unaffiliated with either organization. This proposal was supported by both associations.

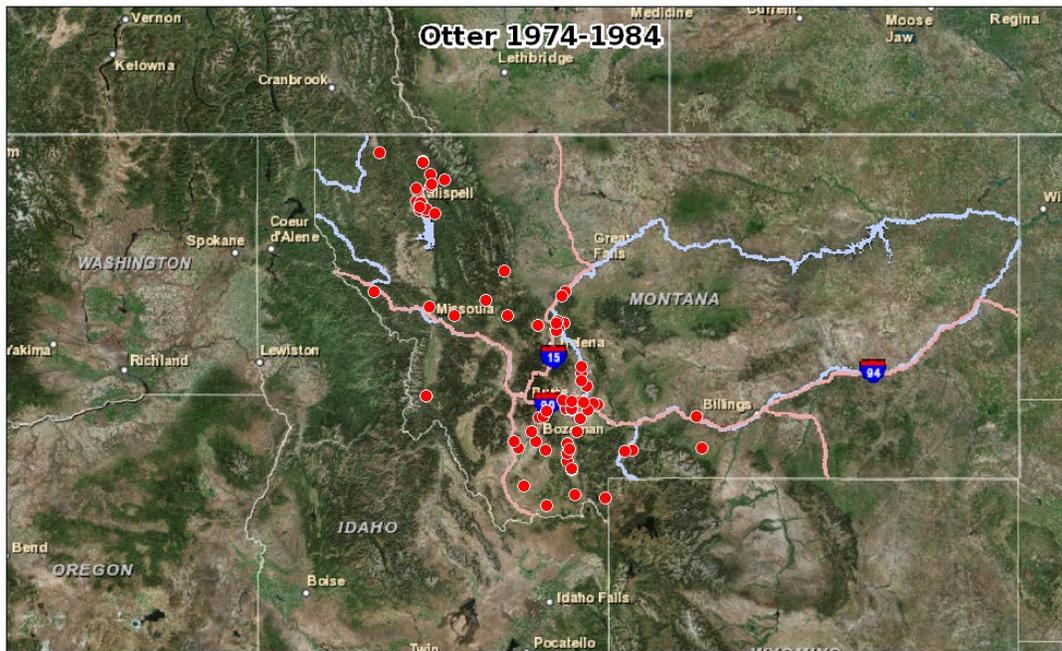
Submitted by: Jessy Coltrane

Date: 5/4/2021

Approved: _____
Regional Supervisor / Date

Disapproved / Modified by: Modified by Brian Wakeling for clarity and brevity, May 19, 2021
Name / Date

Reason for Modification: Clarity and brevity



Otter 1974-1984

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July 27, 2015 0 65 130 260 mi
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