

River Otters of South Florida

ROSF



Research and Conservation International Otter Conservation and Research

Research Needed on the Eurasian Otter and the North American River Otter

Please Note: This content is taken directly from information provided by the IUCN/Otter Specialist Group (OSG). Some minor changes to punctuation and content organization have been made to clarify the content for use on this website. Thank you for your indulgence. (Victor L. Camp)

IUCN/OSG

For the Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) and the North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*)
Research is needed especially on:

1. Scent marking by otters, including validation of spraint(scot) survey: What is the social significance of sprainting, where and when do otters deposit spraint, how and why is this related to habitat, season, individual differences, prey availability, and otter density?
2. Habitat characteristics (including 'holts' = dens) as limiting factors for populations: Effects of vegetation-cover, holts, stream-width, bank-disturbance (including behavioural responses).
3. Characteristics and usage of holts (= dens).
4. Social organization including: Home-range size, variation with habitat and region, with population density, and predation differences.
5. Fish populations: Populations, productivity, population responses to exploitation, seasonal fluctuations and otter profitability of foraging.
6. Otters in the ecosystem: Their effects on fish and bird populations (including endangered species), and fish farms.
7. Amphibian populations and otters.

8. Diseases and populations.

9. Habituation to people and other hazards.

10. Survival after dispersal (natural and after introductions).

11. Mortality: What are effects on populations, of different mortality factors such as contaminants, road traffic, diseases, exploitation, starvation, and why mortality increases with age. For the North American otter, especially population responses to exploitation.

12. For the Eurasian otter specifically in Asia: Competition with other otter species and aquatic predators.

13. For the Eurasian otter: Detailed geographic range in Asian & N. African countries, including altitudinal distribution and habitats as above.

14. For the Eurasian Otter: Conflict with humans in Asian countries: fisheries, skin trade.

4 April 2022