Rules of
Department of Conservation
Division 10—Conservation Commission
Chapter 8—Wildlife Code: Trapping: Seasons, Methods

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Title 3—DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Division 10—Conservation Commission
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3 CSR 10-8.505 Trapping

PURPOSE: This rule requires any person engaged in trapping to possess the prescribed permit.

Any person, to exercise the privilege of trapping, shall obtain and have on his/her person the prescribed permit or temporary permit authorization number(s), unless exempt under provisions of 3 CSR 10-5.205. The temporary permit authorization number(s) and picture identification must be carried at all times while trapping until the actual permit(s) is received. No person shall accept payment for furbearers taken by another. Furbearers may not be held alive under trapping permits, except as provided in 3 CSR 10-8.515(4).


3 CSR 10-8.510 Use of Traps

PURPOSE: This rule specifies the types of traps that are permitted and the restrictions on their use.

Traps shall be metal traps with smooth or rubber jaws only. Egg-type traps, cage-type traps or snares set under water only, but shall not include pitfalls, deadfalls, snares set in a dry-land set, nets and colony traps. Traps and snares shall be plainly labeled, on durable material, with the user’s full name and address. Wildlife shall be removed or released from all traps daily, except for killer (Conibear-type) traps set under water, and shall be attended and wildlife removed at all times while trapping until the actual permit is received. No person shall accept payment for furbearers taken by another. Furbearers may not be held alive under trapping permits, except as provided in 3 CSR 10-8.515.

3 CSR 10-8.515 Furbearers: Trapping Seasons

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the open seasons for trapping and for selling pelts and carcasses of furbearers.

1. Otter Management Zone A—That portion of northwest Missouri from the Iowa border and west of a line running south on U.S. Hwy. 169; south on Mo. Hwy. 36 to U.S. Hwy. 36; east on U.S. Hwy. 36 to U.S. Hwy. 69; south on U.S. Hwy. 69 to Mo. Hwy. 10; east on Mo. Hwy. 10 to Mo. Hwy. 13; south on Mo. Hwy. 13 to Interstate Hwy. 70; west on Interstate Hwy. 70 to Mo. Hwy. 131; south on Mo. Hwy. 131 to Mo. Hwy. 2; west on Mo. Hwy. 2 to the Kansas line.

2. Otter Management Zone C—That portion of southern Missouri east and south of a line running west from the Illinois border on Interstate Hwy. 44 to Interstate Hwy. 44; west on Interstate Hwy. 44 to Mo. Hwy. 68; south on Mo. Hwy. 68 to Mo. Hwy. 32; and to a line comprised of Mo. Hwy. 32 east to St. Francois County Hwy. OO; south on St. Francois County Hwy. OO to St. Francois County Hwy. T; east on St. Francois County Hwy. T to Mo. Hwy. 51; and to Mo. Hwy. 51 to the Illinois line.

3. Otter Management Zone D—That portion of southwest Missouri west and south of a line running north from the Arkansas border on Mo. Hwy. 5 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Webster County Hwy. A; north on Webster County Hwy. A to Mo. Hwy. 38; west on Mo. Hwy. 38 to Interstate Hwy. 44; west on Interstate Hwy. 44 to Mo. Hwy. 39; north on Mo. Hwy. 39 to U.S. Hwy. 160; west on U.S. Hwy. 160 to the Kansas line.

(A) A season limit of five (5) otters, and muskrats in any numbers may be taken from November 20 through January 20 in Otter Management Zones A, C, and D, described as:

1. Otter Management Zone A—That portion of northwest Missouri from the Iowa border and west of a line running south on U.S. Hwy. 169; south on Mo. Hwy. 36 to U.S. Hwy. 36; east on U.S. Hwy. 36 to U.S. Hwy. 69; south on U.S. Hwy. 69 to Mo. Hwy. 10; east on Mo. Hwy. 10 to Mo. Hwy. 13; south on Mo. Hwy. 13 to Interstate Hwy. 70; west on Interstate Hwy. 70 to Mo. Hwy. 131; south on Mo. Hwy. 131 to Mo. Hwy. 2; west on Mo. Hwy. 2 to the Kansas line.

2. Otter Management Zone C—That portion of southern Missouri east and south of a line running west from the Illinois border on Interstate Hwy. 44 to Interstate Hwy. 44; west on Interstate Hwy. 44 to Mo. Hwy. 68; south on Mo. Hwy. 68 to Mo. Hwy. 32; and to a line comprised of Mo. Hwy. 32 east to St. Francois County Hwy. OO; south on St. Francois County Hwy. OO to St. Francois County Hwy. T; east on St. Francois County Hwy. T to Mo. Hwy. 51; and to Mo. Hwy. 51 to the Illinois line.

3. Otter Management Zone D—That portion of southwest Missouri west and south of a line running north from the Arkansas border on Mo. Hwy. 5 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Webster County Hwy. A; north on Webster County Hwy. A to Mo. Hwy. 38; west on Mo. Hwy. 38 to Interstate Hwy. 44; west on Interstate Hwy. 44 to Mo. Hwy. 39; north on Mo. Hwy. 39 to U.S. Hwy. 160; west on U.S. Hwy. 160 to the Kansas line.

(B) Otters and muskrats may be taken in any numbers from November 20 through February 20 in Otter Management Zone E, described as:

1. Otter Management Zone E—That portion of south Missouri east and north of a line running north from the Arkansas border on Mo. Hwy. 5 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Webster County Hwy. A; north on Webster County Hwy. A to Mo. Hwy. 38; west on Mo. Hwy. 38 to Interstate Hwy. 44; west on Interstate Hwy. 44 to U.S. Hwy. 65; east of a line running north on U.S. Hwy. 65 to Interstate Hwy. 70; south of a line running east on Interstate Hwy. 70 to the north bank of the Missouri River; east on the
Missouri River to U.S. Hwy 63; south on U.S. Hwy. 63 to Mo. Hwy. 68; south on Mo. Hwy. 68 to Mo. Hwy. 32; and south of a line comprised of Mo. Hwy. 32 to U. S. Hwy. 67; south on U.S. Hwy. 67 to Mo. Hwy. 32; east on Mo. Hwy. 32 to St. Francois County Hwy. OO; south on St. Francois County Hwy. OO to St. Francois County Hwy. T; east on St. Francois County Hwy. T to Mo. Hwy. 51; and south and east of Mo. Hwy. 51 to the Illinois line.

(C) A season limit of twenty (20) otters and muskrats in any numbers may be taken from November 20 through January 20 in Otter Management Zone B, described as

1. Otter Management Zone B—The remainder of the state not in Otter Management Zone A, C, D, or E, as described above.

(3) Except in Otter Management Zone E, killer or Conibear-type traps with a jaw spread less than eight inches (8") and leghold traps smaller than number three (3) are prohibited in water sets after January 20. In Otter Management Zone E, killer or Conibear-type traps with a jaw spread less than eight inches (8") and leghold traps smaller than number three (3) are prohibited for trapping beavers after February 20. Coyotes may be taken in any numbers by trapping from November 20 through February 20. Traps may not be placed or set before November 20 and must be removed by midnight of the last day of the trapping season.

(4) Pelts of furbearers may be possessed, transported and sold only by the taker from November 20 through February 4, except that pelts of coyotes and pelts of muskrats taken in Otter Management Zone E may be possessed, transported, consigned for processing and sold by the taker from November 20 through March 1, pelts of beaver may be possessed, transported, consigned for processing and sold by the taker from November 20 through April 10, and tagged bobcats and otters or their pelts may be possessed throughout the year. Bobcats or their pelts shall be delivered by the taker to an agent of the department in any open county for registration or tagging; otters shall be delivered by the taker to an agent of the department only in the Otter Management Zone of harvest for registration or tagging. Bobcats and otters shall be registered or tagged before selling, transferring, tanning or mounting not later than February 4, except for otters taken in Otter Management Zone E, not later than March 4. It shall be illegal to purchase or sell untagged bobcats and otters or their pelts. Other pelts may be delivered or shipped and consigned by the taker to a licensed taxidermist or tanner before the close of the possession season for pelts. These pelts must be recorded by the taxidermist or tanner and shall not enter the raw fur market. After tanning, pelts may be possessed, bought or sold without permit. Skinned carcasses of legally taken furbearers may be sold by the taker throughout the year. (Certain Department of Health rules also govern how furbearer carcasses might be utilized.)

(5) Rabbits may be taken by trap from November 20 to January 20 within prescribed hunting limits, but carcasses may not be sold.

(6) Restrictions on possession shall not apply to tanned pelts, mounted specimens or manufactured products.

(7) Red fox, gray fox and coyotes may be taken alive during established seasons by prescribed methods and held in captivity. They may not be exported and may only be sold or given to holders of a valid Hound Running Area Operator’s Permit. Red fox and gray fox may not be possessed after February 4; coyotes may not be possessed after February 25. These animals may be held for no longer than seventy-two (72) hours after capture, except when confined in facilities and cared for as specified in 3 CSR 10-9.220, and after approval by an agent of the department. Complete and current records of all transactions must be maintained showing the county of origin, the species, date captured, date of transfer and name and permit number of the hound running area operator/dealer receiving each individual animal. These records shall be kept on forms provided by the department and submitted to an agent of the department by March 15. Records shall be made available for inspection by an authorized agent of the department at any reasonable time.