

UK WILD OTTER TRUST

Otter predation workshop

Barston lakes



BACKGROUND:

UKWOT are primarily a conservation organisation for the Eurasian otter

Raising awareness through education to the public and angling sector

Otter cub rehabilitations

CL 36 humane trapping licence

Working with angling

SOUTH WALES OTTER TRUST:

Sister group backed by UKWOT and managed by Lee Jenkins who is a professional Ecologist

Monitor & record the otter population in South Wales via DNA as we did on the River Don in Yorkshire with the University of Sheffield where populations were established over a 7 mile section of the river – spraint was tested over a years period which established that it was the same animals using the trial area sprainting sites



SW WILD OTTER TRUST

OTTER CUB REHABILITATIONS

Last 2 years we have released one female & currently have 2 in care, 1 female & 1 male that are 7 months old

1 x 7 week old female due in over the next couple of weeks but rehabbed otter numbers are very small compared to RTAs – Beginning of year we were taking on average 2 reports of dead otters every day

Rehabs **SHOULD** be regulated to present professional image – we have nothing to hide!



CL36 HUMANE TRAPPING LICENCE:

Mark Walsingham, Joss Faulkner along with Mark Owen of the Angling Trust were key in securing the licence and granted in Sept 2016

Was met with much criticism and concern from within the pro otter sectors as the thought was that it would allow ANY fishery to trap otters – this was never the intention!

Over 100 calls from fisheries ALL of which were as a result of having the CL36 in place

Breakdown as follows:

70% of calls from fisheries

25% from householders with ponds

5% from river keepers/anglers

10 applications to live set traps

4 otters trapped humanely & released with no welfare issues or injuries. 2 from a fishery – 1 from a wetland site (trapped under an individual licence but by CL36 registered person after initial contact to UKWOT) and 1 on welfare grounds from South Devon



Photo credit: Richard Bamforth

From the 100 calls we have helped as follows:

10 applications to trap as already stated

All of the others solved by either one way gates, flushing of the site, gates open with flushing and quite a large % solved by giving simple advice on fence improvements

Trapping is ALWAYS & ONLY used as a last resort with the intentions being NOT to trap

UKWOT strict welfare & operational guidelines

Given fishery owners a legal & humane option that will always act as a barrier to any proposed culls



END OF PRESENTATION

