

Best Practice in Beaver lethal control

Practical Dispatch



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What shooting scenarios?



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Targeting Family Group

- Why target whole group
 - Social grouping
 - Animals remaining may shift to new structure in same territory
 - Animals remaining will continue to damage
 - Welfare considerations in relation to sub-adults
- Identifying adults and sub adults



Targeting Family Group



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Targeting Family Group



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What firearms ?

Why set minimum

- Relatively thick skin -need penetration before expansion
- Increase chance of drop to shot



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What firearms?

RIFLES

- Centrefire rifle
- Minimum bullet weight of 50 grains
- Minimum muzzle velocity of 2,450ft/sec
- Minimum muzzle energy of 1000 foot pounds
- i.e. a rifle legal for controlling roe deer).



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What firearms?

SHOTGUNS

- Min 12 bore
- AAA shot or larger at a range of no more than 20m
- Non-lead shot is required on or over water



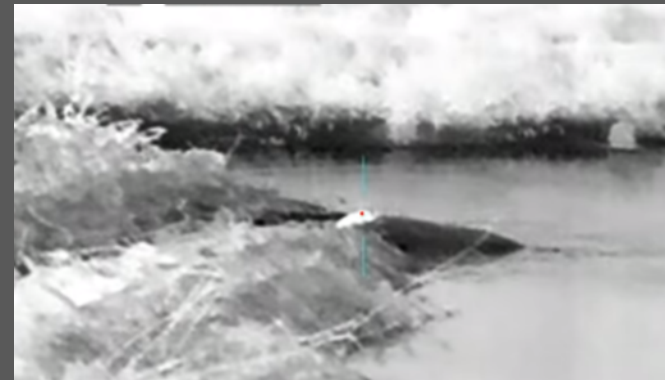
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Night shooting

Lamping & Thermal/IR

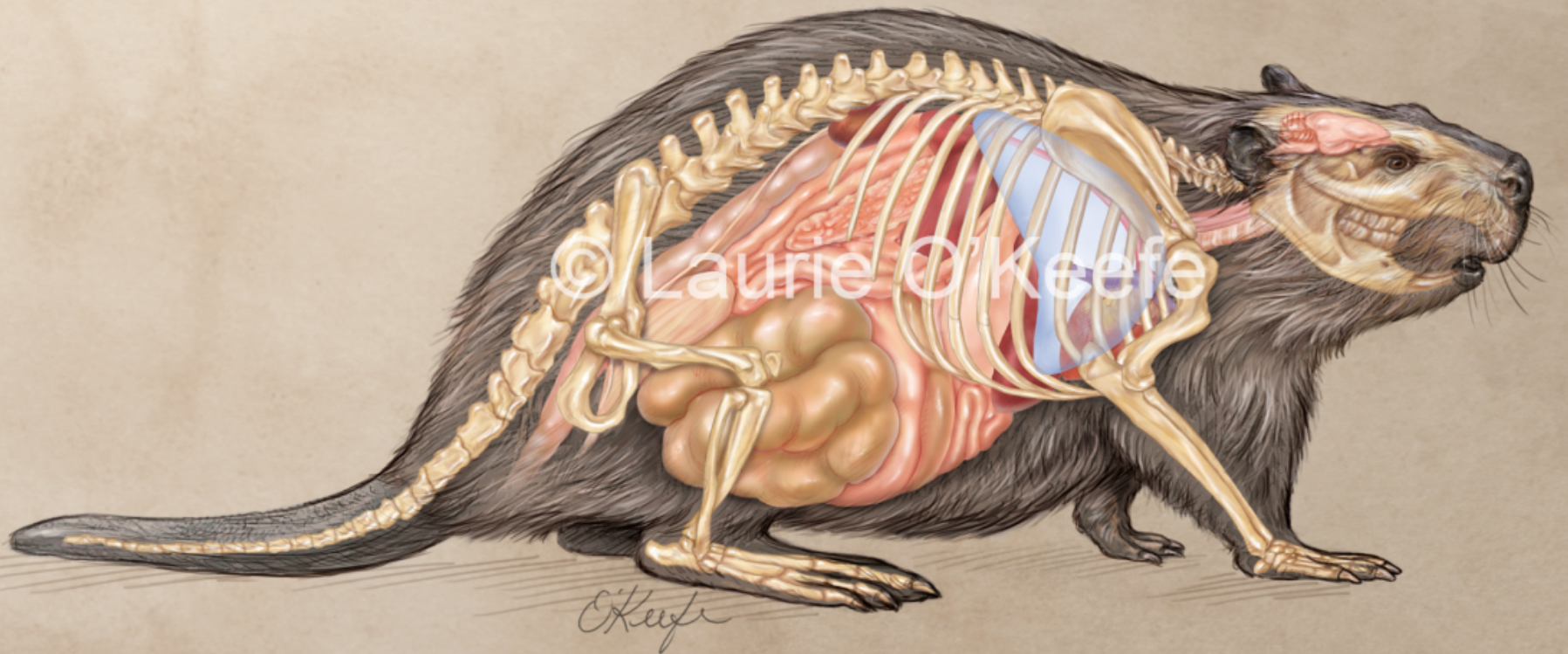
- Night Shooting Codes of Practice
- At least 2 people – shooter and observer
- Additional risks?



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Point of Aim ?



Point of Aim ?



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Particular risks?

- Ricochet
 - Over water
 - Stones
 - Public safety
 - Animal welfare
- Species id



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Particular Risks – when controlling in KDP

- Remove the kits first
- What would reasonable effort look like ?
- What techniques should be applied



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Retrieving - Disposal

- Retrieval - Gaff/grappling hook
- Possession
- Animal By-Products
- Dedicated SNH staff accompanying controls
- Sampling a number of carcasses



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Record keeping – why ?

- Better understanding of the population structure
- Population modelling
- Monitor health
- Share best practice
- Objective information to inform discussion

- Annual returns
- Notification within 7 days during kit dependency period



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RECORD KEEPING

Beaver licence return form		To be submitted by 31st December each year of licence. Email to licensing@snh.gov.uk					
Licence number:		Farm Code:					
Date	Action (e.g kill/remove dam/destroy burrow /lodge)	Number (of animals, dams etc.)	Location (description)	Acredited controller name (if applicable)	For dam only activities		
					Lodge/burrow present? (y/n)	Food store present? (y/n)	Notes
01/09/2018	Removed dams	2	Little burn		No	No	
01/11/2018	Killed animals	4	Spring burn	J Mackay			
01/11/2018	Removed dam	1	Spring burn		Yes	Yes	Part of lethal control
02/11/2018	Destroyed lodge	1	Spring burn				
02/11/2018	Killed animals	3	Spring burn	J Mackay			
01/05/2019	Killed animals	5	Autumn burn	J Mackay			
01/05/2018	Destroyed burrow	1	Autumn burn				No dam present
How effective has this work been in addressing the problems you have experienced? (on a scale of 1-10, 1 being ineffective, 10 being completely successful):							
If your licence is due to expire, do you require a new licence? (y/n)							
Additional Comments (e.g. on effectiveness; carcass retrieval etc.)							



Record Keeping – Accredited controller

Controller name									Contact Details:					
Licence No	Date	Time of shot	Grid ref	Length	age	weight	Shot scenario	Day/Night	Type of firearm	shot placement	Retrieved	Disposed/Kept	number in group	Comments

- Shot Scenario =
- ☐ in flowing water
 - ☐ in standing water
 - ☐ on a bank
 - ☐ on /at dam
 - ☐ coming out of burrow
 - ☐ coming out of lodge
 - ☐ other



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Any further
questions?



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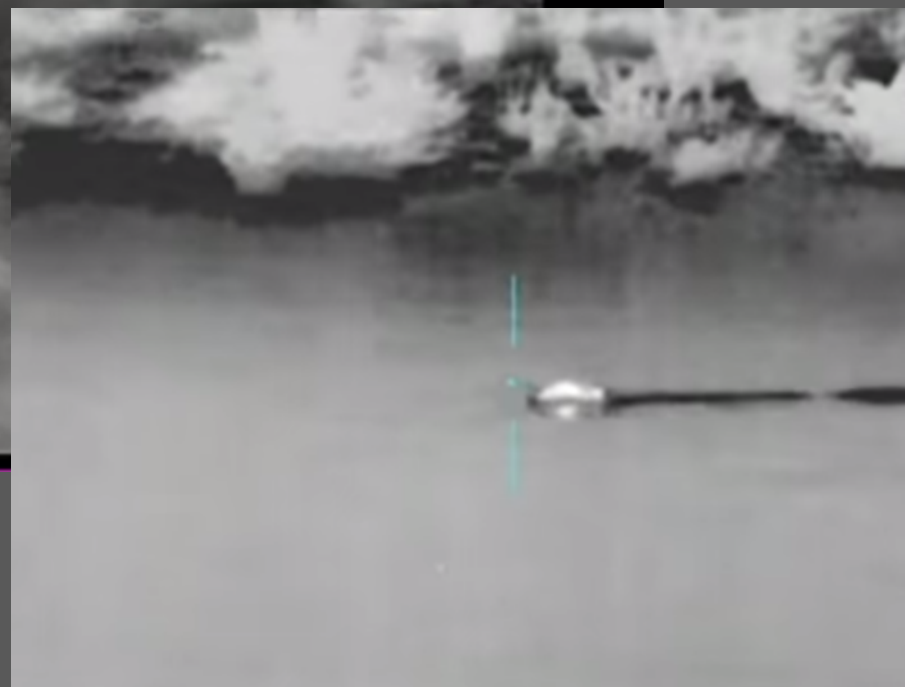
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Species id – what in particular?

Otter

Can I see the whole body flat along the surface? Yes

– Does it have protruding ears? Yes

– Is it bigger (2-3 foot body length)? Yes

– Is it feeding on willows or carrying large branches while swimming? Yes

Likely answer: Beaver

– Can I see the whole body flat in the water? No

– Is it traveling very fast? Yes

– Is it traveling in a group? Yes

– It is catching fish, snails, salamanders or leeches? Yes

Likely answer: Otter



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Video clips for discussion

Elevated shot

[https://youtu.be/
R6pLNmBQYaE?t=137](https://youtu.be/R6pLNmBQYaE?t=137)

[https://youtu.be/
1DnaxbuPL54?t=52](https://youtu.be/1DnaxbuPL54?t=52)



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