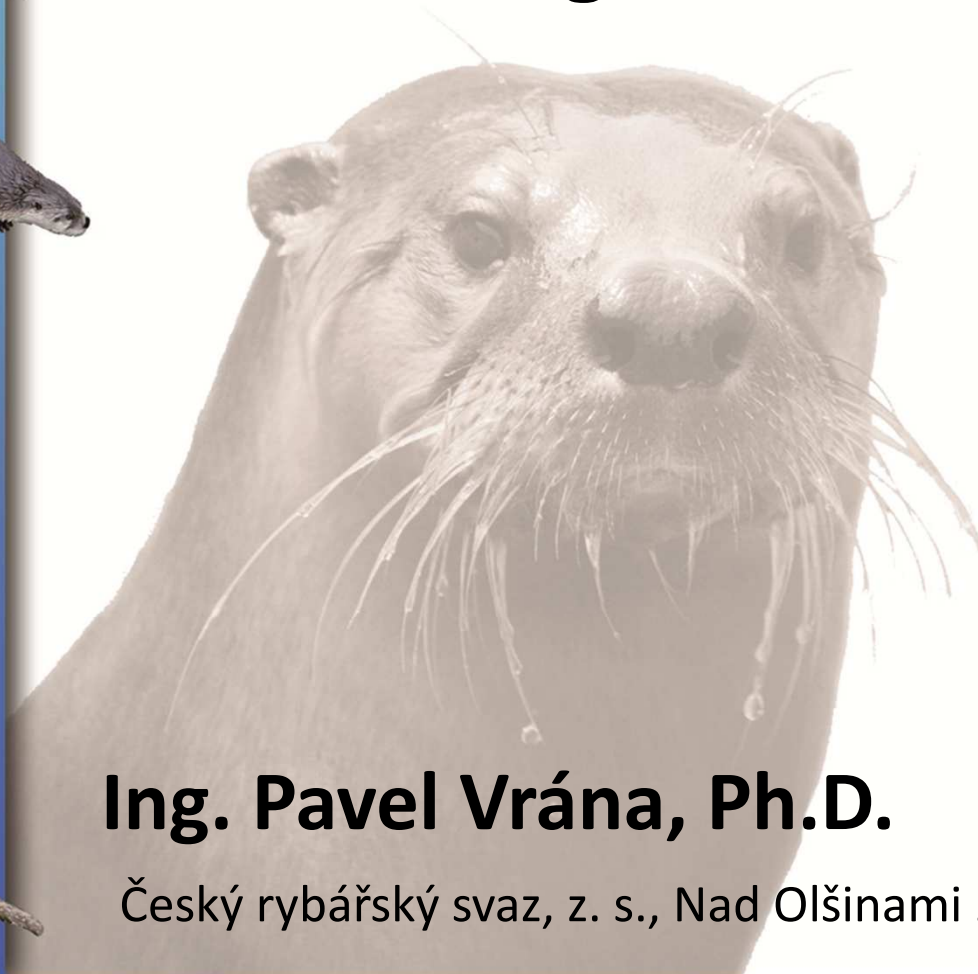




Otter population in the Czech Republic: history, current status and Czech government approach



Ing. Pavel Vrána, Ph.D.

Český rybářský svaz, z. s., Nad Olšínami 282/31, Prague 10, 100 00



Ing. Pavel Vrána, Ph.D.



Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*): from enemy to the sangreal (...and back?)



- 10th century otter = source of quality fur
- 14th century otter = fast meal (fish like meat)
- 17th century otter = amphibian
- 18th century otter = time of shrinking of living space (corn)
- 19th century otter = pest and victim of the wild hunt
- 20th century otter = population explosion
- 21st century otter = sangreal of nature protection





For centuries
they nicely
played
together...

I  love

otter

They are so
cute...!

Nature will help
itself!

...let them be...





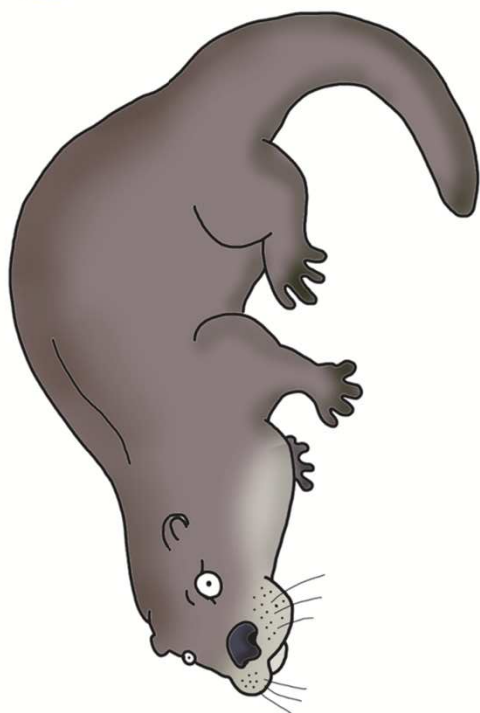
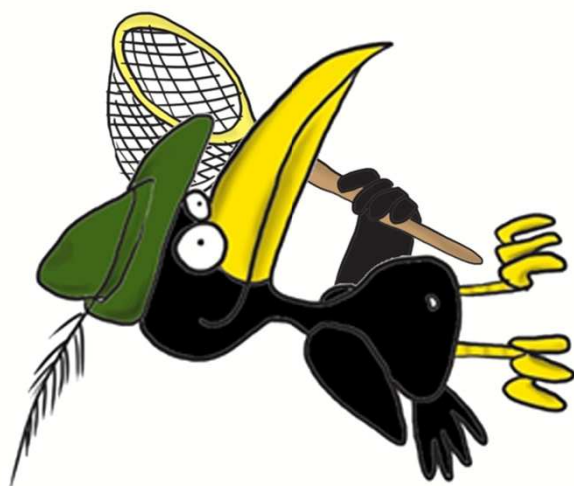
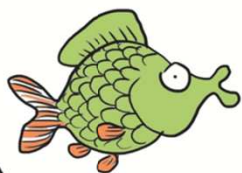
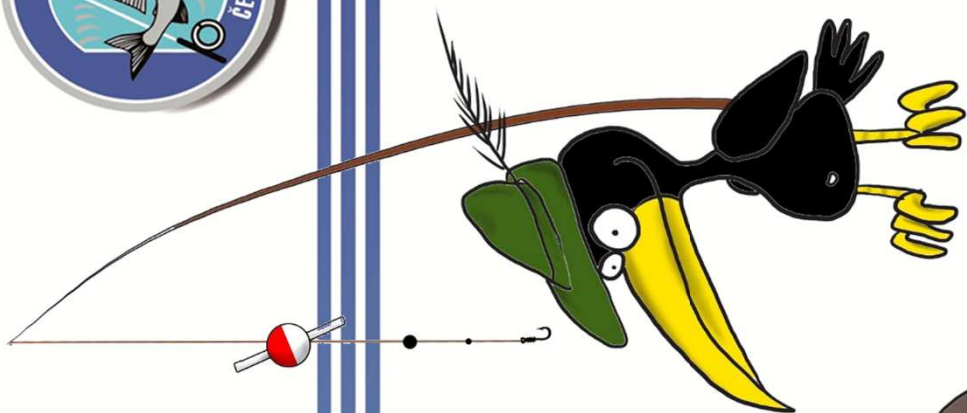
Fish quality.

If you
decrease
number of fish,

Fault. Historically
there were much
more fish in
fisheries than now.
However, fish stock
composition has
changed

er will
simply move to
another locality.
Fish usually
can't do that.

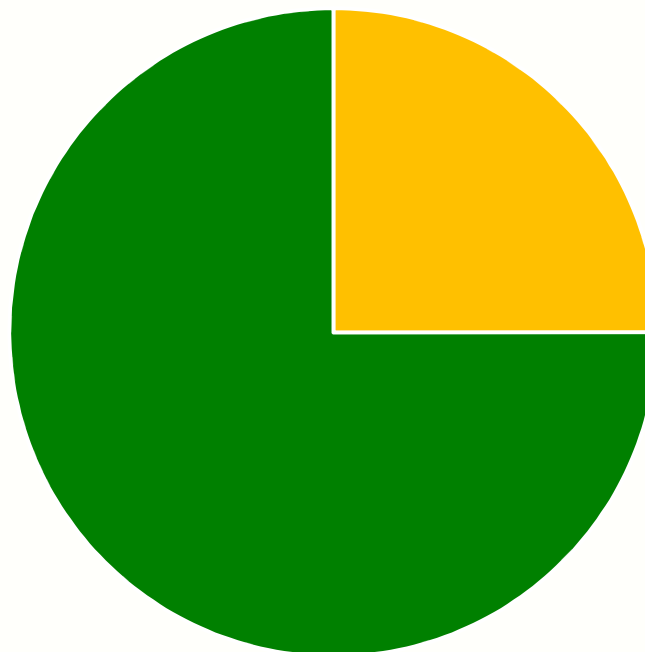






situation development

predation pressure on the fish stock - history



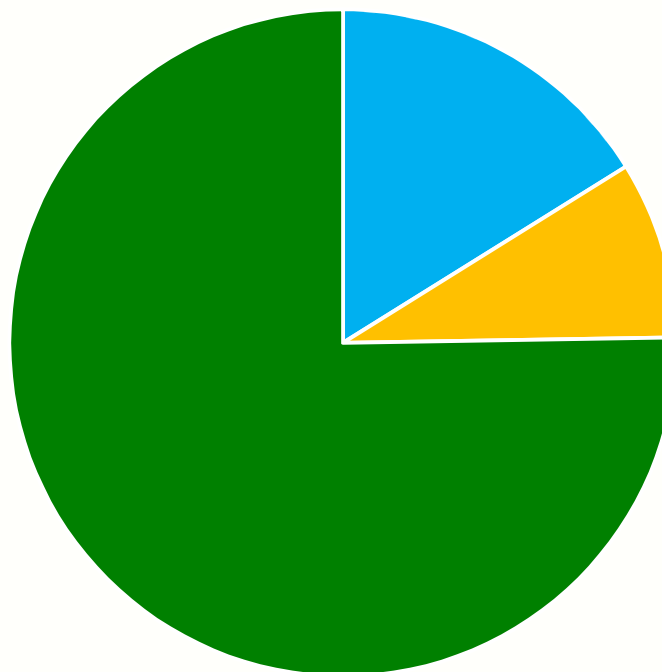
■ vydra ■ populační záloha





situation development

predation pressure on the fish stock - later



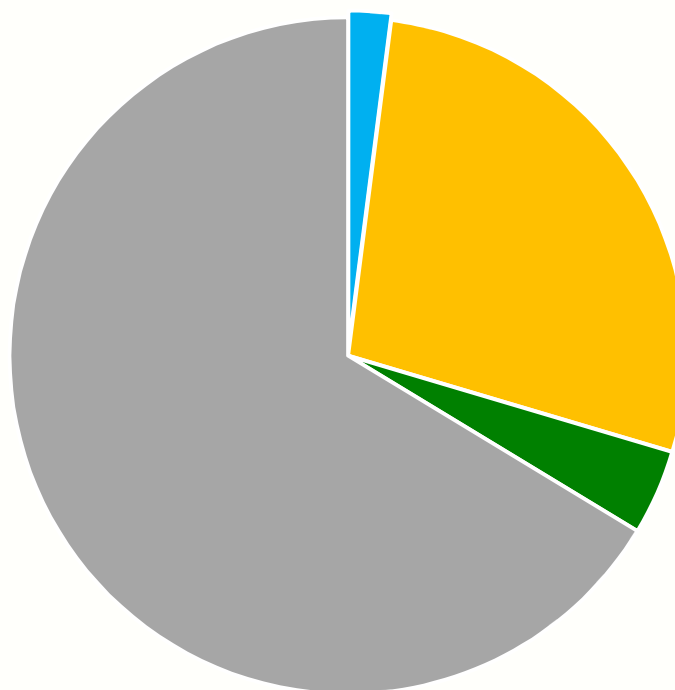
■ rybáři ■ vydra ■ populační záloha





situation development

predation pressure on the fish stock - present

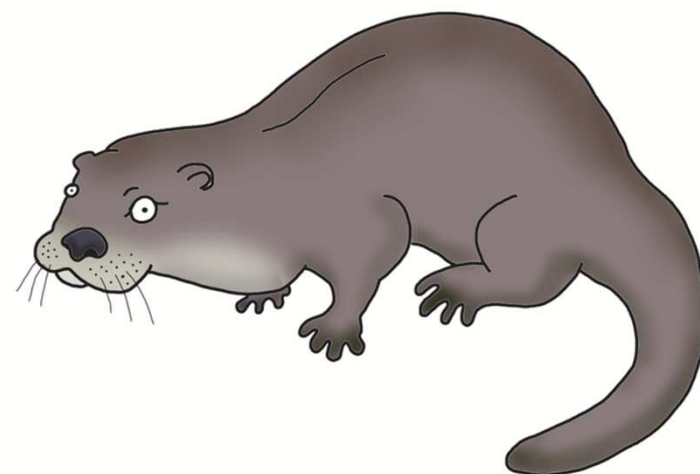


■ rybáři ■ vydra ■ populační záloha ■ chybí



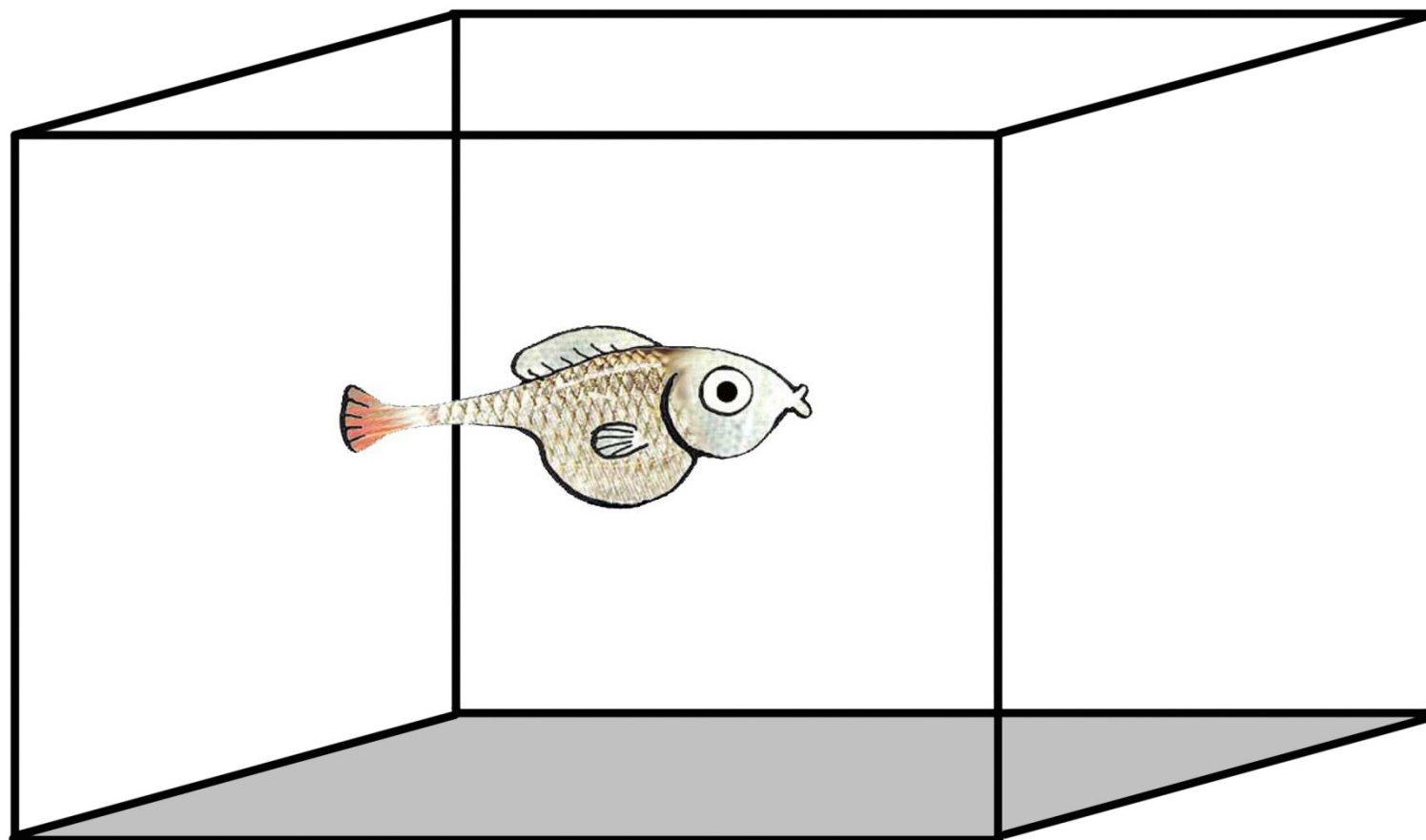
What's up?

- stream regulation
 - hydropower plants
 - reduced migrational permeability
 - drought
- ...management of the otter population is no allowed





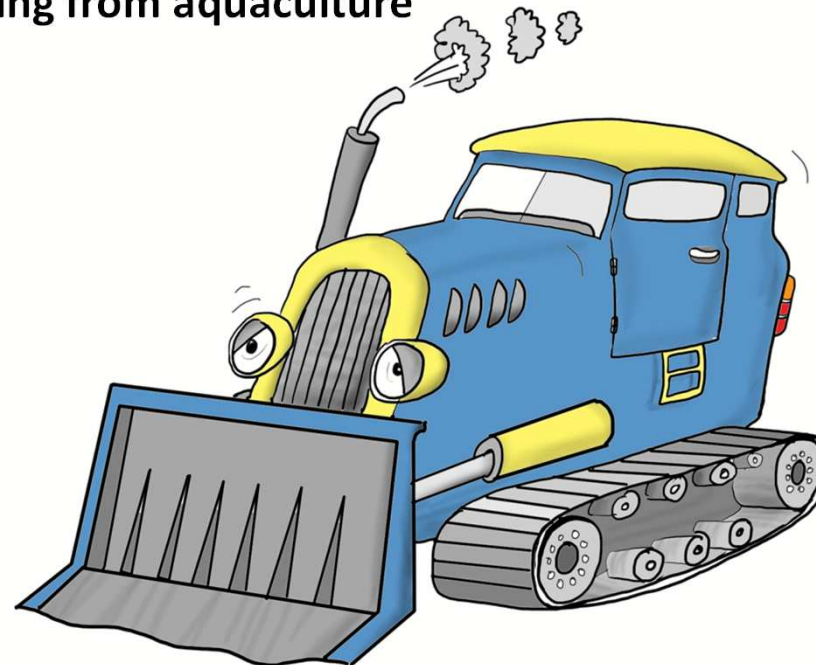
Try to found two differences:



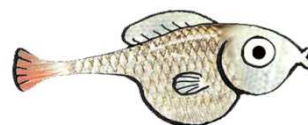


Arteficial increase of predator's success

- transversal barriers = increased fish concentration (summer, winter refugium)
- transversal barriers = impossibility of upstream escape
- decreased shelter capacity = increase of predation success
- stocking of naive fish originating from aquaculture



It's not just about the otter...



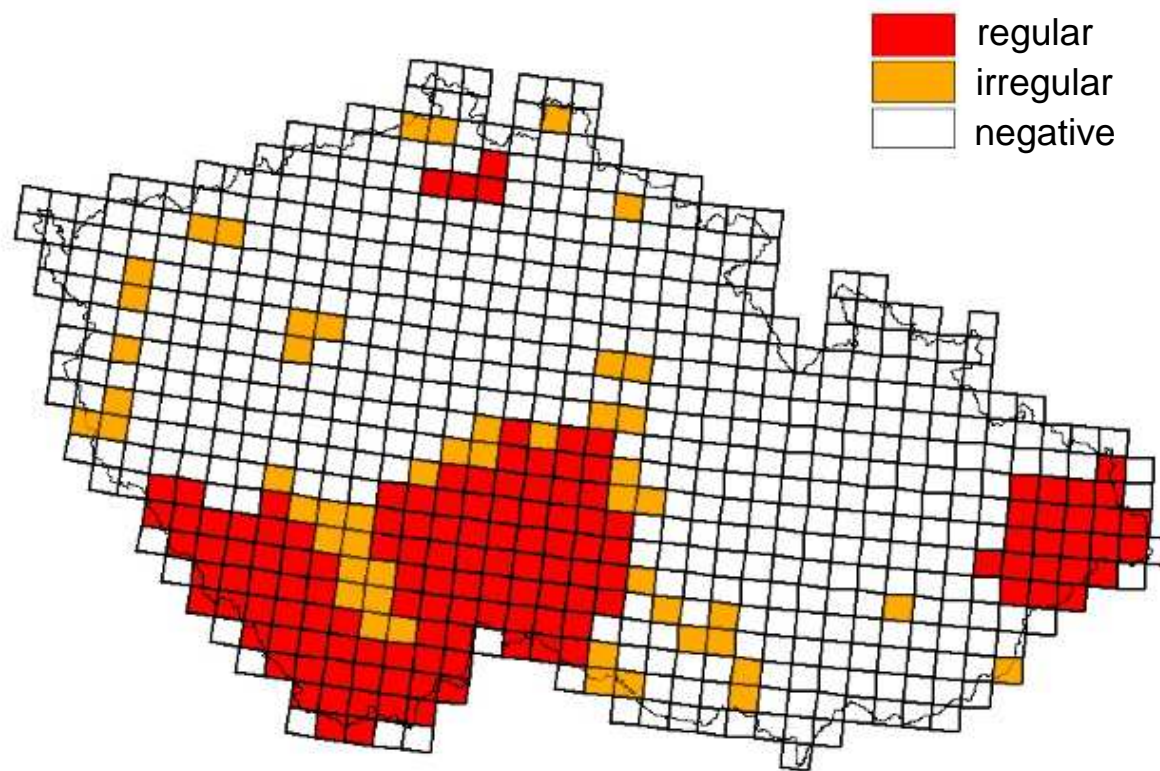


natural balance is affected





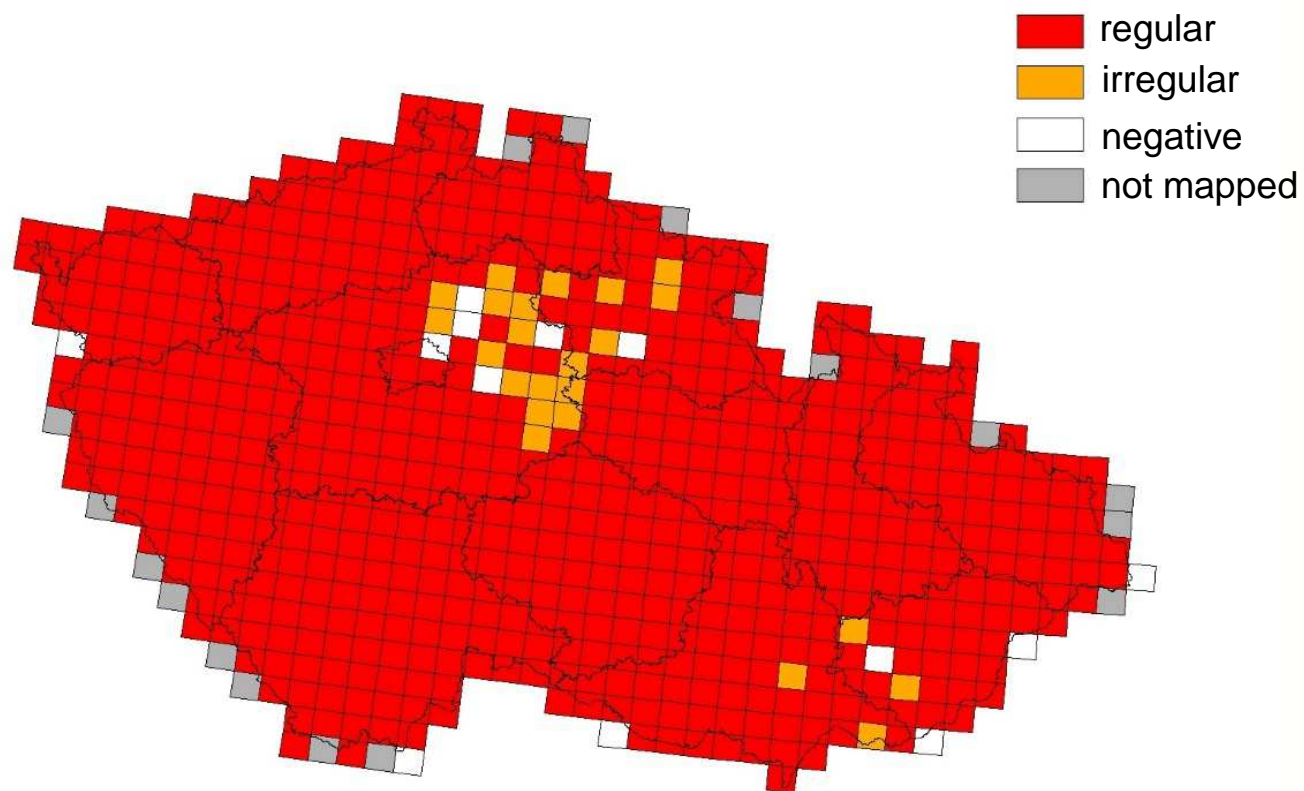
Occurrence of the eurAsian otter in 1992





Occurence of the eurasian otter in 2016

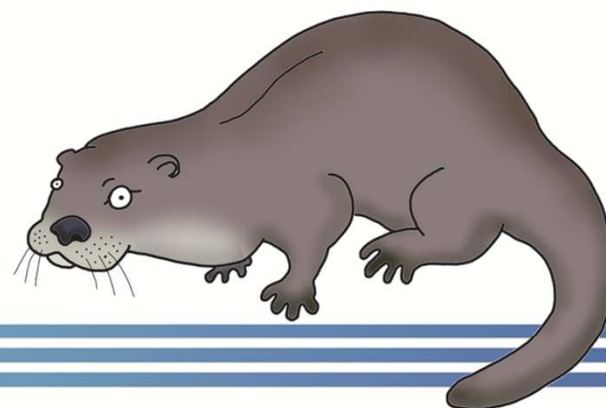
Výskyt vydry říční v roce 2016



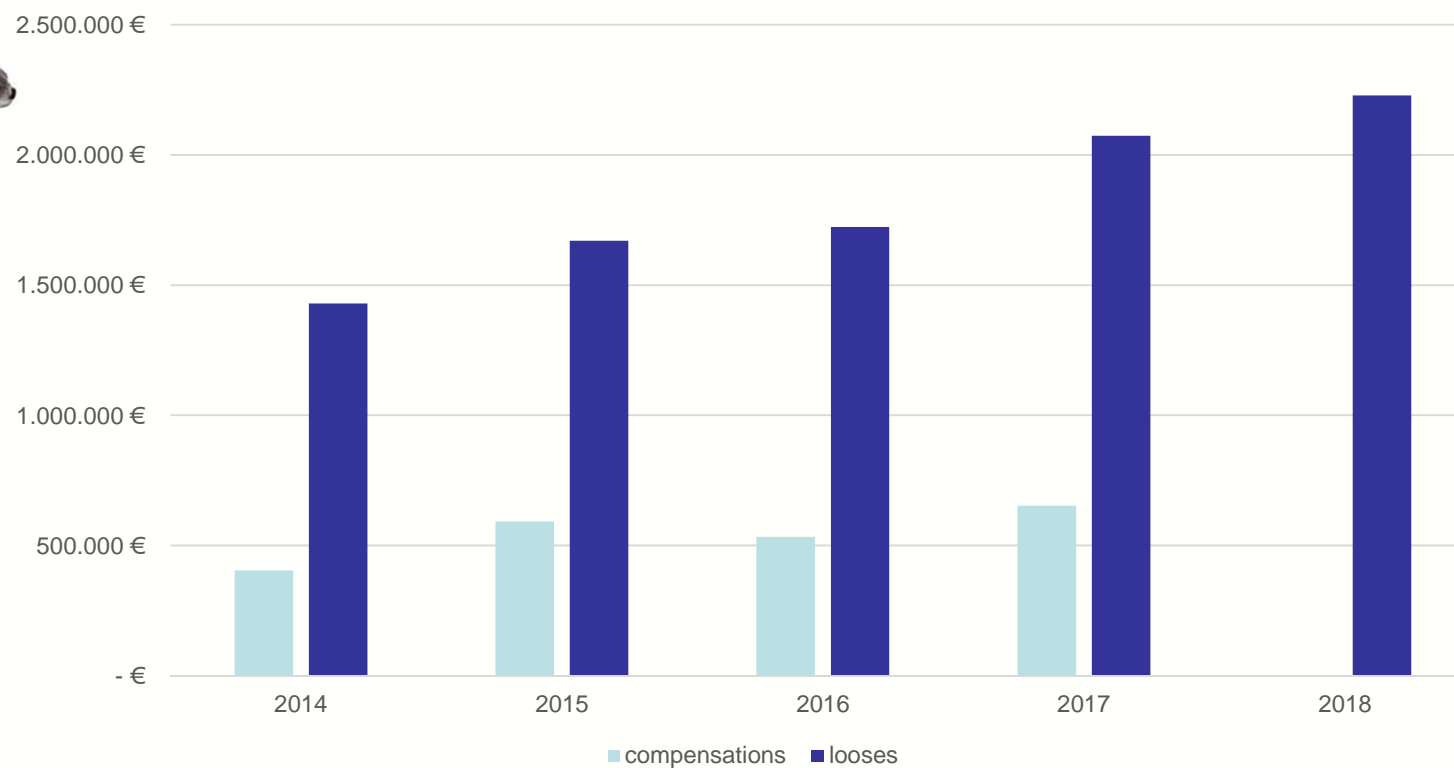


Conflict





looses and compensations caused by otter in aquaculture



compensations



fisheries (rivers, ponds!)



X compensations are not provided

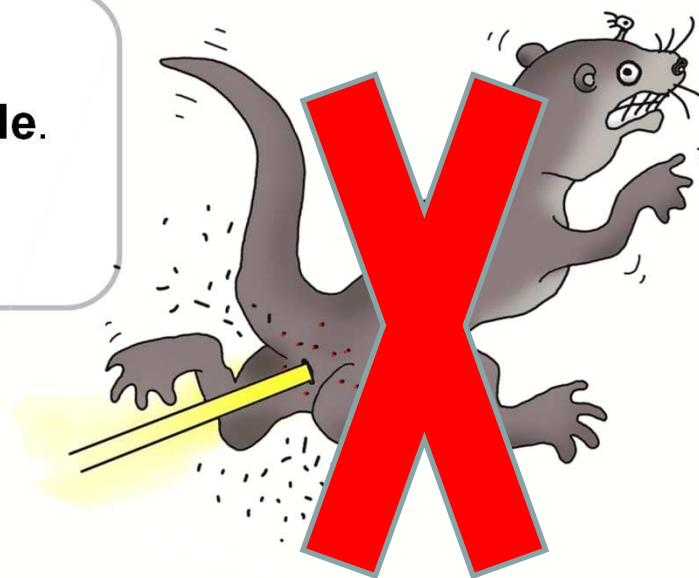
aquaculture (pond, hatchery)

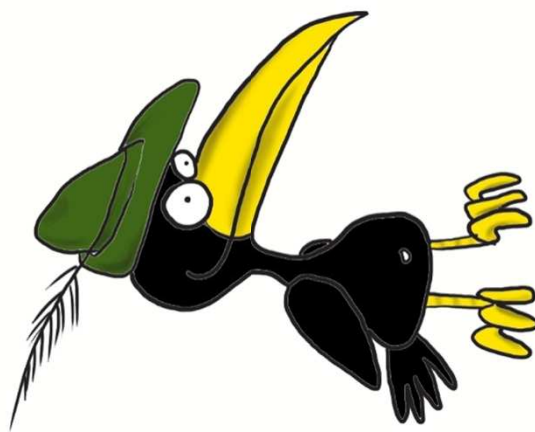


! compensations are provided



**Otter shooting is not possible.
EU don't wish it.**









Conflict

- otter shooting is not allowed
- there is too many otters in Czech
- populations of natural fish species are in danger
- there is no financial compensation for losses in fisheries
- road transport is only legal restriction of otter population





Consequencies

OBECNÉ

- loss of generation fish
- loss of young breeding fish
- loss of whole volumes of fish
- impossibility of regular management of nursery streams
- bad economy of salmonid fisheries
- drastic drop of biomass and abundance in fisheries
- permanently unsustainable situation
- local fish populations endangered
- in final consequence threat for complete fish species





Consequencies

In terms of Czech Anglers Union:

- absence of interest in fishery management and aquaculture production from the side of local organizations
 - complaints on fishery management
 - complaints on inactivity concerning otter management
- = therefor we are here**



Public prefers otter...



Otter



- visually attractive
- playful
- skilful
- it has smooth fur
- it produces sounds
- its interesting to look at it
- kids film star

Public has idealized ideas of otters and nature.

Fish

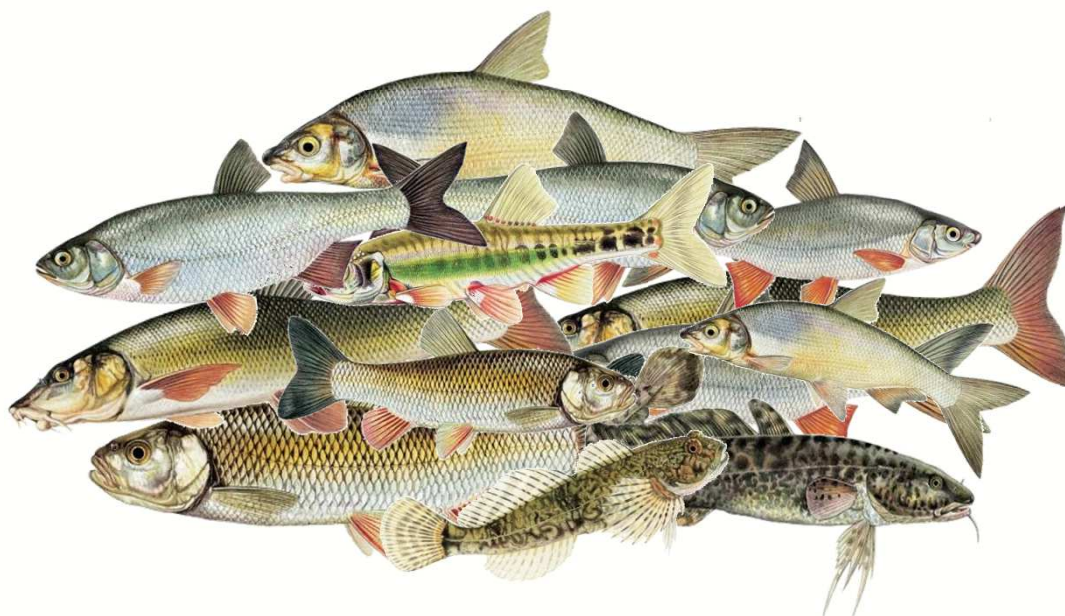


- cold
- slippery
- stinking
- its dumb
- its hard to see it

Public is not much interested in the fish and water environment.



**Our remaining fish thank you
for your attention.**



Ing. Pavel Vrána, Ph.D., Český rybářský svaz, z. s. Nad Olšinami 282/31,
Praha 10, 100 00, mobile: 728 701 379, e-mail: vrana@rybsvaz.cz

