Otter (Lutra lutra) in Lithuania

Linas Balčiauskas



Species status

Red data book, category 5(Rs) – restored
International conventions apply
No otter protection plan in the country

* - not according IUCN categories

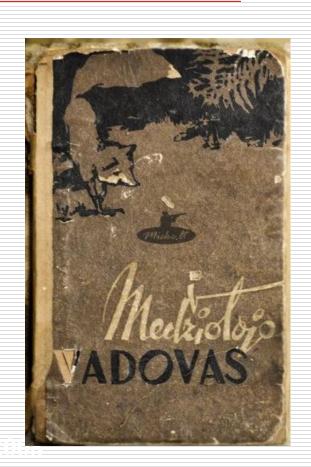
New Red data book is under preparation now

Otter population decrease (historical data)

1925–1950, number decrease, not documented by scientific data

1960–1990, low otter numbers in the country, not documented by scientific data

1990–1999, much higher population number confirmed



Otter population decrease (historical data)

31 + 0.25

Otter

2.5-4.0

1990–1999, high population number, confirmed

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DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF OTTER AND AMERICAN MINK IN LITHUANIA

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Clay plains

| Landscape | ind./10 km | range |
|-----------|------------|-------|
| | | |

| Ciay plants | 0112 0120 | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------|
| Sandy plains | 3.3 ± 0.36 | 1.8-5.0 |
| Moraine eminencies | 3.7 ± 0.32 | 2.0-5.7 |

II NORTH EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON THE ECOLOGY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED CARNIVORES

ABSTRACTS



Lammi, Finland 8-11 April, 1994

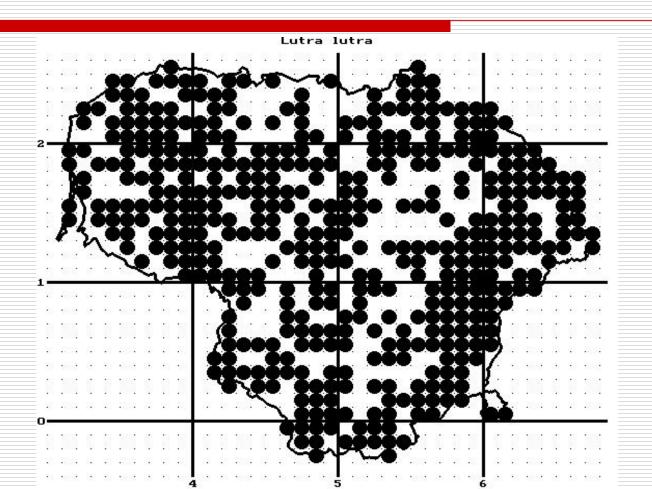
Otter population trend

Previously numbers underestimated. Causes unknown.

Population numbers 1990-2017: stable or even increasing

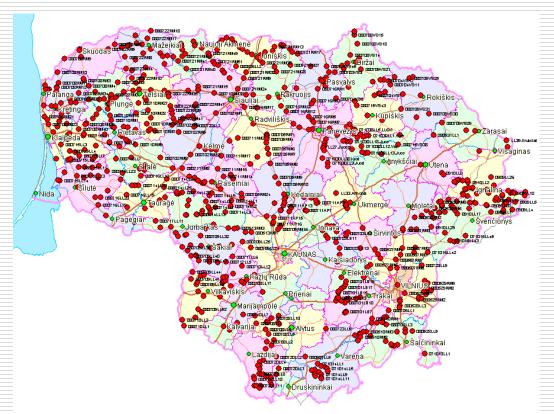
Otter number in the country – ca 3000

Otter distribution (Atlas, 1999)



Otter distribution – routes and data (2008)

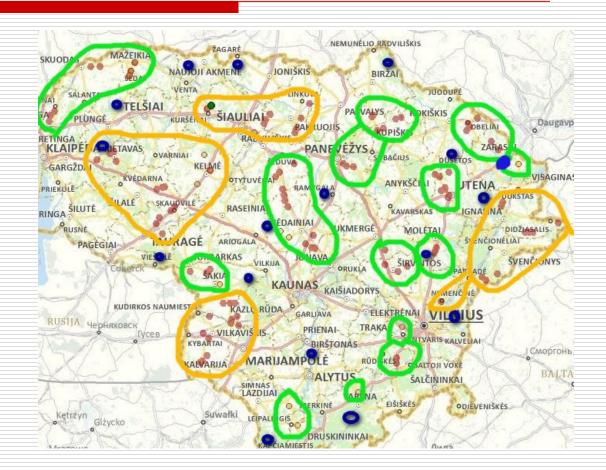
Method – registration of positive sites (mainly – defecations under bridges)



Otter Monitoring, 2008

Methods (in Lithuanian, of course): http://www.vstt.lt/VI/files/

File/Projektu%20skyrius/PAST%20ir%20BAST%2
Ometodikos%202016/VS
TT%20Metodikos%2020
15%20be%20pauksciu%
20press.pdf

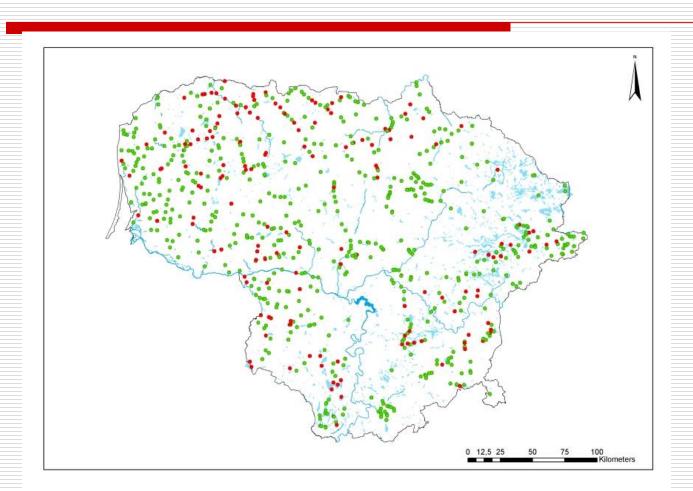


Otter Monitoring, 2008

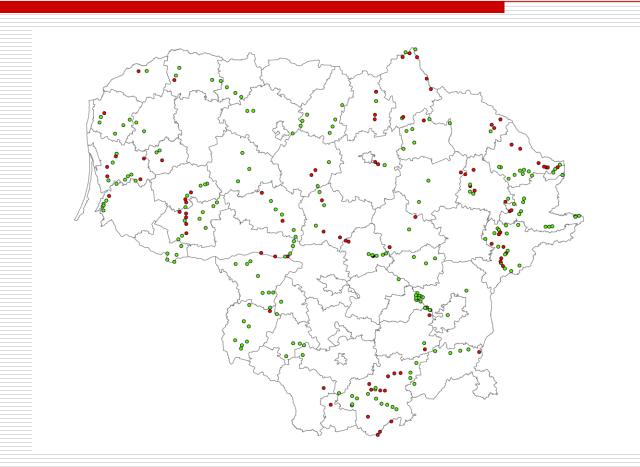


Photo: V. Matulaitis, V. Stirkė

Otter distribution (Monitoring, 2008)



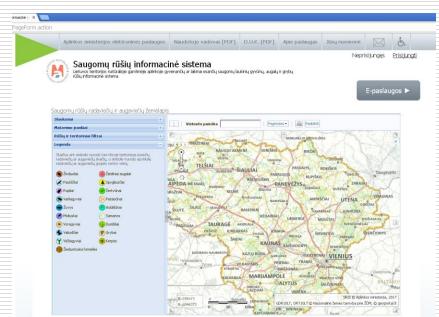
Otter distribution (Monitoring, 2014)



Otter distribution (SRIS, 2017)

According Lithuanian law, information on observations of Red Data species is not freely available to public, including GIS maps and coordinates.

https://sris.am.lt/portal/startPageForm.action



Otter habitats

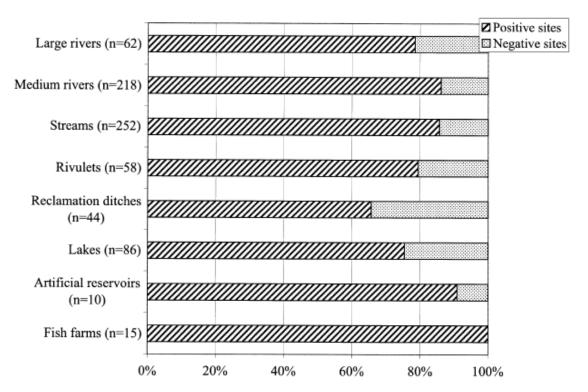


Fig. 3. Otter distribution in various water bodies in Lithuania.

(Baltrūnaitė et al., 2009)

Otter habitats

| Habitat | Monitoring 2008 | | | | Monitoring 2013–2015 | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|------|-------------|------|----------------------|------|-------------|------|
| | Number of sites | | Otter found | | Number of sites | | Otter found | |
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| Regulated watercourses | 202 | 27.1 | 151 | 74.8 | 17 | 6.5 | 11 | 64.7 |
| Partly regulated | 68 | 9.1 | 54 | 79.4 | 22 | 8.4 | 18 | 81.8 |
| Natural watercourses | 475 | 63.8 | 379 | 79.8 | 222 | 85.1 | 159 | 71.6 |

Influence of watercourse regulation not found.

Differences between 2008 and 2013-2015 due to observer's bias

Otter habitats (20 m from water) 2013–2015

| Habitat | Natura 2000 territories | | | | Territories outside Natura 2000 | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|------|-------------|------|---------------------------------|------|-------------|------|--|
| | Number of sites | | Otter found | | Number of sites | | Otter found | | |
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | |
| Grassland | 137 | 69.9 | 100 | 73.0 | 74 | 68.5 | 62 | 83.8 | |
| Shrubs and trees | 141 | 71.9 | 107 | 75.9 | 84 | 77.8 | 59 | 70.2 | |
| Forest | 10 | 5.1 | 3 | 30.0 | 8 | 7.4 | 6 | 75.0 | |
| Dry habitats | 134 | 68.4 | 102 | 76.1 | 69 | 63.9 | 50 | 72.5 | |
| Swampy habitats | 24 | 12.2 | 16 | 66.7 | 15 | 13.9 | 10 | 66.7 | |
| Oxbows | 30 | 15.3 | 19 | 63.3 | 12 | 11.1 | 9 | 75.0 | |

Influence of surrounding habitat not significant.

Differences in Natura 2000 sites due to observer's bias

Otter habitats (100 m from water) 2013–2015

| Habitat | Natura 2000 territories | | | | Territories outside Natura 2000 | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------|-------------|------|---------------------------------|------|-------------|------|--|
| | Number of sites | | Otter found | | Number of sites | | Otter found | | |
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | |
| Meadows and pastures | 83 | 42.3 | 54 | 65.1 | 94 | 87.0 | 69 | 73.4 | |
| Forest | 90 | 45.9 | 65 | 72.2 | 35 | 32.4 | 23 | 65.7 | |
| Agricultural land | 42 | 21.4 | 26 | 61.9 | 51 | 47.2 | 40 | 78.3 | |
| Farms and settlements | 6 | 3.1 | 3 | 50.0 | 54 | 50.0 | 34 | 63.9 | |

Influence of human activity, 2013–2015

| Human activity | Natura 2000 territories | | | | Territories outside Natura 2000 | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|------|-------------|------|---------------------------------|------|-------------|------|--|
| | Number of sites | | Otter found | | Number of sites | | Otter found | | |
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | |
| None | 38 | 24.8 | 28 | 73.7 | 44 | 40.7 | 34 | 77.3 | |
| Insignificant | 72 | 47.1 | 55 | 76.4 | 44 | 40.7 | 30 | 68.2 | |
| Strong | 43 | 28.1 | 28 | 65.1 | 20 | 18.5 | 10 | 50.0 | |

Otter acceptance

- Generally positive
- Pond owners negative
- Hunters indifferent
- Targeted HD needed



Išleido tvenkinį ir baisiai pasipiktino: visos žuvys mįslingai dingo (124)

Į GRYNAS.lt redakciją kreipėsi pasipiktinęs skaitytojas, kuris teigė, kad ūdros gerai įžuvintame tvenkinyje sunaikino visas žuvis. Jis klausė, kaip tvenkinį būtų galima apsaugoti nuo šių gyvūnų, kad įžuvinimas nenueitų perniek.



Otter damage – Baltijos Vilkas recommend



Threats to otter in Lithuania

- Poaching
- 2. Trapping in beaver traps
- 3. Roadkills (13 registrations 2009-2016)







GYVENIMAS

Rado spąstuose sugautą ūdrą, tačiau baudos

Ūdros yra saugomi gyvūnai, todėl jų naudojimas medžioklės tikslais yra griežtai reglamentuotas. Visgi atsiranda norinčių šių gyvūnų sugauti. O kartais jie sumedžiojami ir netyčia. Jei tai nutinka, medžiotojai turėtu žinoti, kaip elgtis.

GYVENIMAS

GRYNAS TV

GRYNAS TV

KONTAKTAI

APLINKA

APLINKA

išvengė (4)

GAMTA

+ 2 year sentence!!!