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

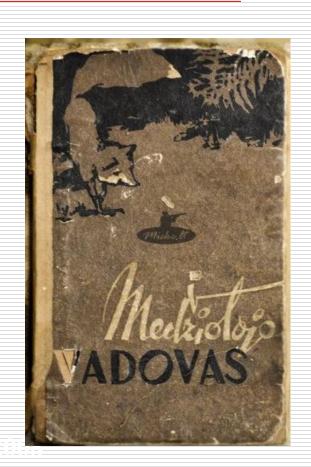
New Red data book is under preparation now

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)

Otter

1990–1999, high population number, confirmed

11

DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF OTTER AND AMERICAN MINK IN LITHUANIA

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friends by Leving, removing to a		rtter
Landscape	ind./10 km	range
Clay plains	3.1± 0.25	2.5-4.0
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

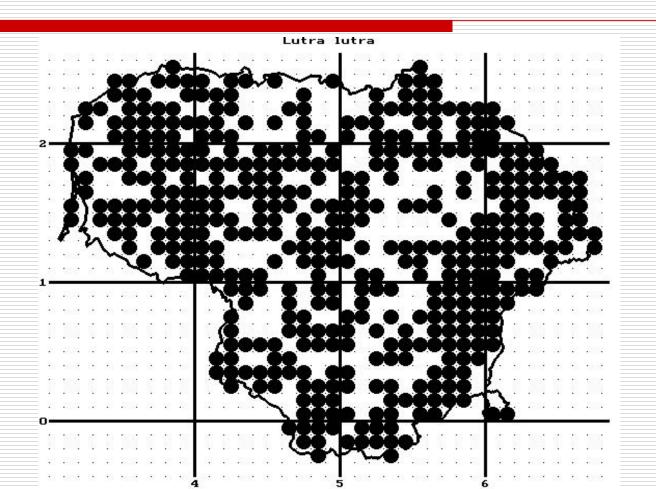
Otter population trend

Previously numbers underestimated. Causes unknown.

Population numbers 1990-2017: stable or even increasing

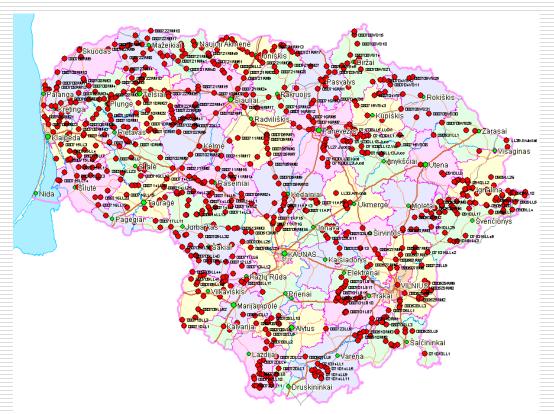
Otter number in the country – ca 3000

Otter distribution (Atlas, 1999)



Otter distribution – routes and data (2008)

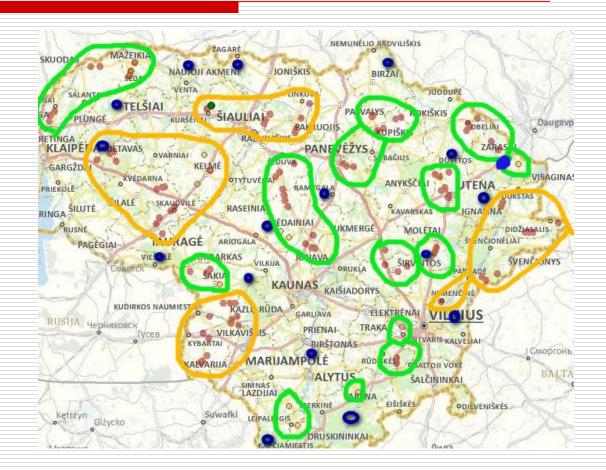
Method – registration of positive sites (mainly – defecations under bridges)



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

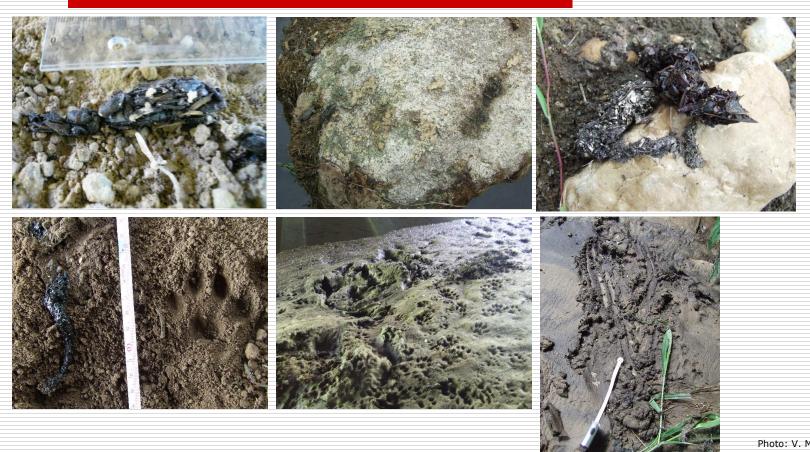
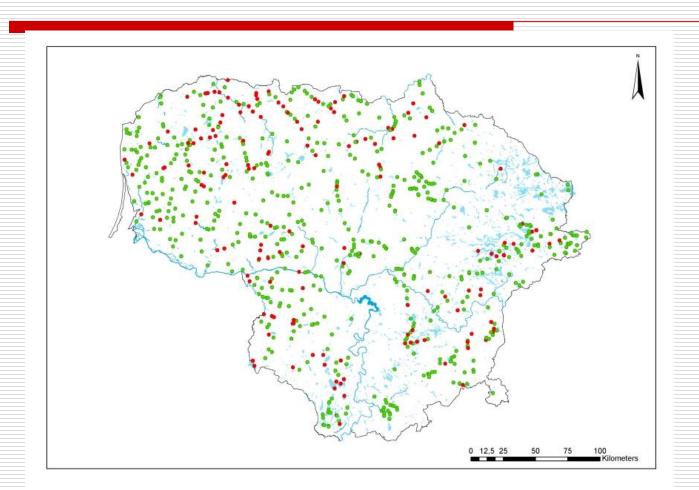
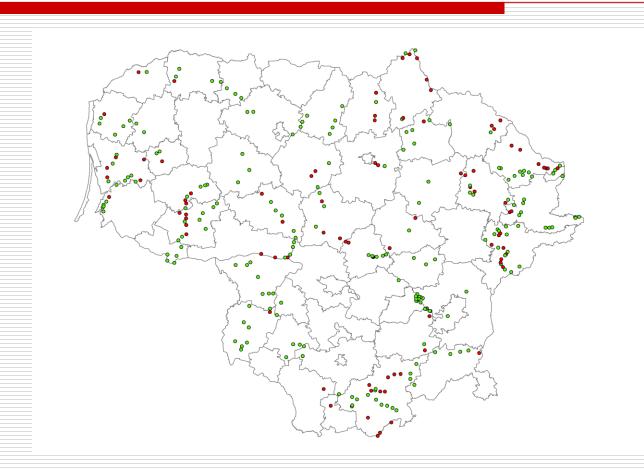


Photo: V. Matulaitis, V. Stirkė

Otter distribution (Monitoring, 2008)



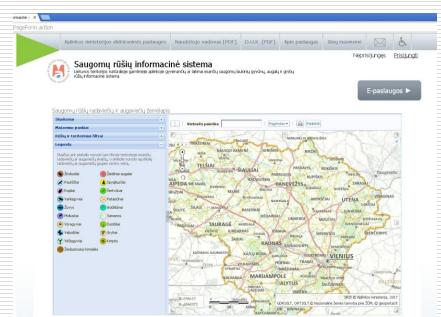
Otter distribution (Monitoring, 2014)



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

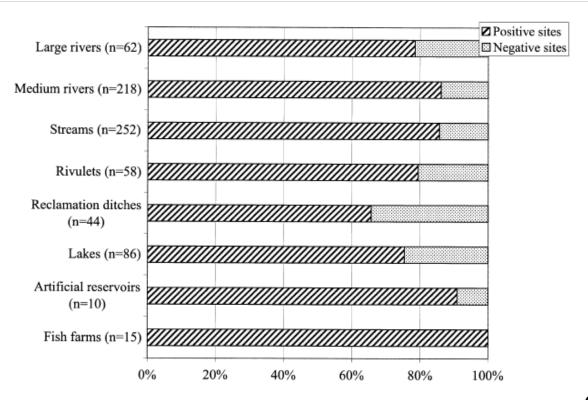


Fig. 3. Otter distribution in various water bodies in Lithuania.

(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

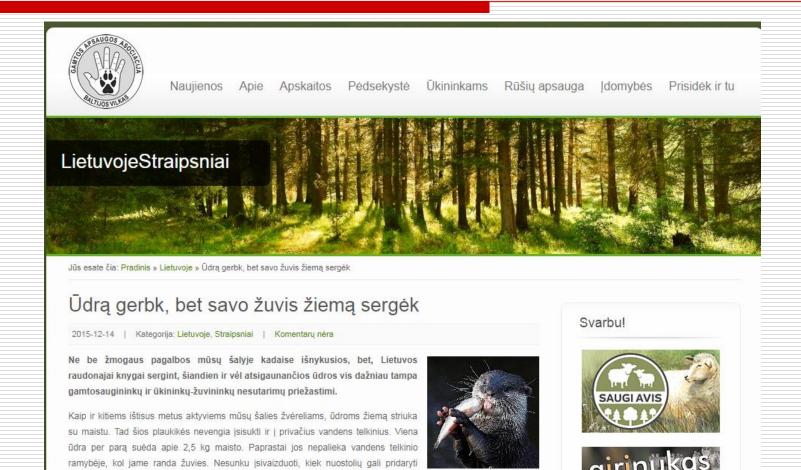


Išleido tvenkinį ir baisiai pasipiktino: visos žuvys mįslingai dingo (124)

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

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KONTAKTAI

APLINKA

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išvengė (4)

GAMTA

+ 2 year sentence!!!