

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 October 2017 16:50
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: trapping update
Attachments: Trapping Update - River Beaulieu - 4 October 2017.docx

To see. I will put together something for [REDACTED] next week

Beauly Beaver Trapping

Update Report as of 6 October 2017

Current activity

Our contractor [REDACTED] is on site full time at present and 5 Bavarian traps are operational with several camera traps operational to track animal activity and help inform decisions on trap placement. Traps have been in position since early July, baited since mid-July and set since the receptor site was ready in September. Traps have not been triggered by beaver although there is camera trap footage of at least one adult beaver showing interest and investigating around the entrance to the trap.

At the beginning of October a quantity of castoreum was sourced from Norway and this has been deployed over recent nights in an attempt to trigger territorial interest from the animals present on site. Local heavy rainfall leading to high flows has frustrated this ploy to some degree although the scent will persist. As river conditions subside we hope this will prove effective in drawing animals into traps. We have sufficient stock of castoreum to cover the operation.

Immediate actions

We are carrying out water based reconnaissance to investigate where animals may be more active with a view to reviewing trap locations and moving traps. Trap movement will require landowner permissions which can be sought and resolved if and when alternative locations are selected. [REDACTED]

Near future actions

We have secured the services of [REDACTED] a successful beaver trapper and [REDACTED] every day next week. [REDACTED] and will be commencing five nights of boat based trapping on the night of Monday 9 October. Permissions have been secured and relevant parties informed; Police Scotland, Fisheries etc.

We expect with a week of active trapping work that we will make some positive progress in capturing animals and also be better informed of where animals are more active to facilitate trap placement should animals remain after the boat trapping. Animals trapped will be screened and taken by Scottish Beavers for their licenced reinforcement at Knapdale.

Contingencies

Where it becomes an animal welfare risk to release animals into Knapdale because of the onset of late autumn conditions and scarcity of food stores (end October) the contingencies to be considered and assessed:-

- Continue trapping effort, screen and take animals into captivity:-
 - There are no obvious known facilities in Scotland although an approach could be made to [REDACTED]
- Halt trapping when receptor site is no longer suitable without creating a welfare risk. Take stock, make assessment of situation with a view to re-commence trapping at the earliest opportunity in 2018 which could be as early as January, giving a trapping window into March before the risk of trapping a heavily pregnant female is raised.
- The option of lethal control remains. (This may be no easier than the trapping has proved to be for example Beauly animals are not apparently making dams like in

Strathmore where movements are then more predictable and on a smaller scale -- there is some 28km of riverbank open to the animals at Beauly)

Discounted Considerations

- Trap and release and artificially feed at Knapdale considered and discounted as inadequate in settling animals securely into a new territory.
- Trap and take into captivity

