

67-3-11

Title: Landowner license requirement for muskrat

The Problem:

Muskrat are not included in the list of animals land owners and members of their family may hunt and trap without a license. Land owners and family members are currently required to have a trapping license for muskrat.

Muskrat often damage fish hatchery ponds, cranberry bogs, agricultural drainage ditches, dikes, dams, lawns, and banks by tunneling and kicking fill into waterways across the state.

Because muskrat can be a nuisance and cause extensive damage to private property, land owners and members of their family should be allowed to hunt and trap muskrat year round without a license the same as currently allowed for beaver.

Muskrat reproduce quickly and are plentiful across the State of Wisconsin.

At present, state law does not permit land owners and family members to hunt and trap muskrat without a license as it does with other species such as beaver. We feel that Wisconsin law should be consistent and allow muskrat to be hunted and trapped year round without any license the same as currently permitted for beaver and other species.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Washington County on April 11, 2011 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change allowing land owners and family members to hunt and trap ~~un~~protected species year round without a license.

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