Evidence of the natural recovery of the Eurasian otter in NE Italy

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Possible colonisation

This photo of an otter hunt was taken in the first decades of the XX Century about 1 km from the place where a male otter road kill was found on Sep 11th 2011 (Figure 4).

Conservation issues

Although it is still early to interpret the real biological meaning of this finding, it raises important management issues. Indeed, in the marshes where the otter was found (Figure 4), the invasive coypus (Myocastor coypus) are hunted by means of night shootings. This method should immediately be suspended in this area and in the rest of the region, as there is a great risk of shooting otters if present. This method should be replaced with trapping using mesh traps.

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Bibliography