

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



Ontario Conservation Centre

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September 28, 2015

Public Input Coordinator
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Species Conservation Policy Branch
Wildlife Section
300 Water Street
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 8M5

Dear Public Input Coordinator:

Subject: EBR Registry Number 012-4735: Amendments to Ontario Regulation 667/98 (Trapping) made under Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act to regulate the use of relaxing cable restraints for trapping in Ontario

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), and its 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 725 member clubs, we have reviewed the proposed amendments to regulate the use of relaxing cable restraints (RCRs) for trapping in Ontario.

The use of RCRs in Ontario is supported by the 2012/13 research study to test the effectiveness of RCRs in selectively capturing coyotes, and their ability to minimize injury and release non-target species. The OFAH supports the use of RCRs in Ontario; however, only if the following conditions are included in the amendment:

- i. Mandatory training for RCRs – this requirement would apply to any licensed trapper, and/or approved farmer. Mandatory training is needed to ensure RCRs operate as a live capture device to effectively target species (e.g. coyotes) and avoid inadvertently capturing or killing non-target species (e.g. dogs, livestock, non-target wildlife);
- ii. Only licensed trappers and approved farmers (i.e. livestock producers) would be permitted to be in possession and/or use these traps; and
- iii. The approved farmer would only be permitted to use RCRs on his/her own property from April 1 to October 15; this would target the problem educated livestock killers.

We recognize the potential for these devices to provide an additional tool that could help farmers to better address livestock depredation issues caused by problem coyotes. The RCRs would also offer licensed trappers a snare-like device to be used in areas that do not currently permit lethal snares (e.g. Southern Ontario) and provide a method to capture wildlife for research purposes.

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Finally, the OFAH strongly recommends that the MNRF work collaboratively with the Ontario Fur Managers Federation (OFMF) to define the technical specifications of the device in regulation (e.g. locking mechanism, breakaway release, and cable lengths).

We appreciate the opportunity to comment, and look forward to continuing to work with the MNRF, as well as the farming and hunting communities to find effective ways to address problem coyotes.

Yours in Conservation,



Dawn Sucee
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

/ds

cc: Ontario Fur Managers Federation
OFAH Board of Directors
OFAH Agricultural Liaison Advisory Committee
OFAH Small Game/Sporting Dog Advisory Committee
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