

FAQs

Are we interested in repeat observations?

Yes! Repeat sightings taken in the same location are great data - they help us monitor group dynamics and numbers. Please contact us if you have frequent sightings and are interested in keeping a log.

I just found a dead or injured river otter, what should I do?

If you find an injured otter, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. You can find the telephone number of a local rehabilitation center on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's website: wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/rehabilitation/

River otters are not considered marine mammals, so if you find a dead river otter you are not required to report it. However, we appreciate the reporting of dead river otters to our sighting submission form as they can provide information on the status and distribution of Washington's river otters. We've updated the submission form with an option to report dead river otters.

If you do find a dead marine mammal, such as a harbor seal or sea otter, they are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and should be reported as per the instructions listed at: wdfw.wa.gov/help/questions/153/What+do+I+do+if+I+find+injured+wildlife%3F

How can I relocate an otter that is denning on my property and/or causing a nuisance?

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website has detailed instructions for evicting or deterring river otters, found at: wdfw.wa.gov/living/river_otters.html. Lethal control should be a last resort since as long as attractive habitat exists, additional river otters will likely just take the previous otter's place.

How can I submit my video footage if it is too large to upload to the submission form?

Video footage that is too large for the submission form can be sent to our email otterspotterwpz@gmail.com. Alternatively, if the footage is also too large for email, some people have found success in uploading the video to YouTube and sending us the link.

If you have any additional questions not addressed by these FAQs, please email us at otterspotterwpz@gmail.com.