



Northern raccoon

(*Procyon lotor*)

Management of Northern raccoons by the Association of certified trappers in the Gironde department

Association of certified trappers in the Gironde department (ADPAG)

- The non-profit organisation was founded in 1997 and is certified for environmental protection.
- Its main missions include:
 - representing the certified trappers in the Gironde department in their dealings with the administrative, professional and hunting authorities;
 - managing and informing the certified trappers concerning regulations and safety;
 - organising the capture of species classified as pests.
- Contact: Fabien Egal, policy officer – fegal.adpag@gmail.com

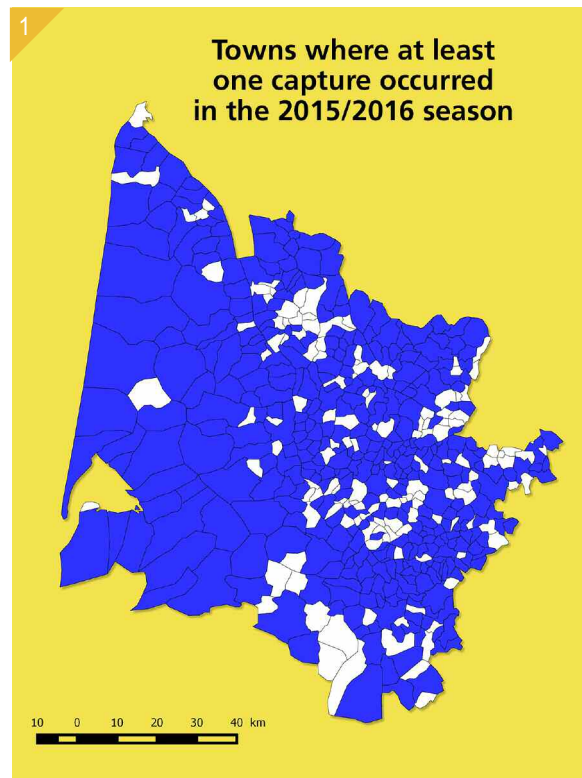
Intervention site

- ADPAG represents the volunteer, certified trappers that operate in the towns of the Gironde department.
- The association coordinates coypu and muskrat trapping by signing agreements with various entities (towns, intermunicipal boards, river boards, farmers, Bordeaux Métropole (urban area), etc.). Trapping of raccoons was progressively included in these agreements.
- The first captures of raccoons occurred in 2008 in two towns of the department. Between 2008 and 2016, raccoons were captured in 27 towns.
- The first raccoons were captured accidentally in cages set for coypus. The trapping system is the same, but some trappers have since specialised in trapping raccoons.
- The traps are generally positioned near aquatic environments (rivers, wetlands), on the banks, in compliance with the applicable regulations.

Disturbances and issues involved

■ Impacts on biodiversity

- In France, the effects of the presence of raccoons on native species are not known. However, the species is suspected of hunting reptiles, amphibians and the young of birds nesting on the ground. It is also thought to compete with other, small carnivores.



1. Map showing towns in blue where the ADPAG is active (all species).

■ Impacts on health

- Raccoons are potential carriers of rabies and of raccoon roundworm (*Baylisascaris procyonis*), which can cause lethal encephalitis in humans.
- They are not fearful and approach homes to look for food (kibble). They may act aggressively toward household pets (dogs, cats), can inflict wounds and transmit diseases (zoozoses).

■ Impacts on agriculture

- A number of land owners in the area have noted significant damage to fruit trees (fig trees, prune trees, etc.).

Interventions

- ADPAG coordinates trapping by the certified trappers in the Gironde department and draws up an annual report on raccoon trapping on the basis of the data supplied by the trappers. Trapping activities are reported to the administrative authorities in each town.
- Operations are conducted throughout the year and the results are assessed at the end of June.
- The traps are supplied by ADPAG with funding by the Departmental council. The cages have a single entry and are equipped with a 5 x 5 cm opening for mink, in compliance with prefectural regulations on trapping. The holes allow female European mink to escape during the time that they feed their young (April to July). For cages manufactured after 1 July 2013, the mink hole must be located in the top panel of the cage.
- Bait consists of apples, carrots or kibble, the latter being an excellent bait for raccoons.
- In compliance with the applicable regulations, the cages are inspected daily.
- When a raccoon has been captured, the ADPAG policy officer is immediately contacted and, whenever possible, travels to the site to check for a microchip implant that would enable identification of the animal. To date, none of the trapped animals has had an implant.
- In compliance with the regulation, the captured animals are killed on site. If a storage system for the corpses has been set up by the certified organisation, they are stored until they can be picked up by the rendering service (free of cost if requested by the town for loads of at least 40 kilogrammes).
- Report cards on animal captures are sent in June to the trappers, who fill them out and send them back to ADPAG for inclusion in the annual summary report.

Results and costs

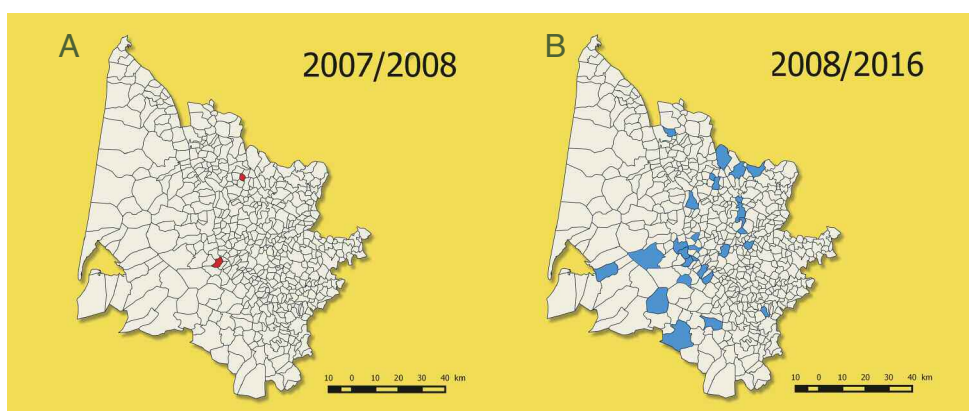
■ Results

- From 2008 to 2016, a total of 131 raccoons were captured in 27 different towns by 28 trappers.
- To put that into context, for the 2015-2016 season, 22 raccoons were captured in seven towns, based on the data contained in the 1 288 report cards sent back by trappers. Seven trappers made those captures, with a maximum of nine by one of the trappers.
- In 2016-2017, the number of captures increased sharply with 91 raccoons captured by seven trappers in seven towns. One of the trappers succeeded in capturing 68 raccoons.



2. Cage trap used for raccoons with an opening for European mink.

3, 4. A raccoon captured in a cage trap.



A. Towns in the Gironde department where the first captures were made in 2008.

B. Towns in the Gironde department where at least one raccoon was captured from 2008 to 2016.

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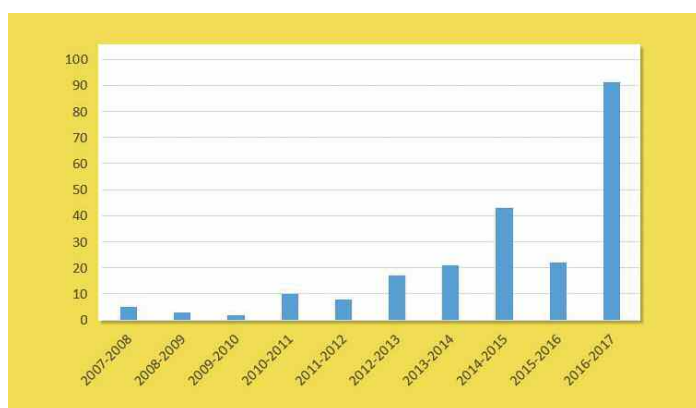


■ A mapping application was developed by the Poitou-Charentes Regional environmental observatory to illustrate the trapping results. It may be found at adpag.fr/cartographie/.

Yearly trapping results.

Season (July to June)*	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	TOTAL
Number of raccoons captured	5	3	2	10	8	17	21	43	22	91	222
Average number per trapper	2.5	1	1	2	2.67	2.83	3.5	5.38	3.14	13	-
Number of towns	2	3	2	5	3	6	6	8	7	7	27

* The trapping season runs from 1 July to 30 June.



Number of raccoons trapped per season.

■ Assessment

■ There is clearly an increase in the number of raccoons captured, probably due to the rise in the number of trappers, to the fact that some have specialised in trapping raccoons, and to the successful reproduction and dispersal of the species over the territory.

■ It is difficult to distinguish any differences in the cost of trapping raccoons compared to coypus and muskrats given that the equipment used is the same. Starting in the 2015-2016 season, the bounty for the capture of a raccoon was five euros, compared to three euros for a coypu (only in the towns having signed an agreement with ADPAG).

■ The major difficulties are the theft of and damage to the traps. Between 20 and 30 traps are declared stolen each year (out of 1 200 traps made available), a discouraging situation for the trappers affected by the thefts. The traps are replaced by ADPAG if the trapper presents the papers declaring the theft to the *Gendarmerie*.

■ In addition, the species has a positive image in the population, which can result in the reaction of people opposed to trapping who send emails to the town hall, distribute leaflets, etc. An example of a leaflet is shown in Figure 5.

Information on the project

■ Training courses are regularly run for the certified trappers who must go through a mandatory course on regulations at least once every five years. Optional courses on trapping techniques are also offered.

■ The annual report on trapping in the Gironde department is published on the ADPAG site.

■ Presentations on the work are regularly made during conferences and symposia on invasive alien species, e.g. at the 38th SFEPM Mammalogy conference in October 2015.

Outlook

■ A genetic study is now being run by the National agency for hunting and wildlife (ONCFS) to identify the different populations and determine the origin of individual animals (populations originating in Germany, newly escaped animals, etc.).

■ To that end, samples are drawn from trapped animals or those found dead (e.g. roadkill). A piece of ear (0.5 square cm) is placed in a tube filled with alcohol and sent to ONCFS, with a note indicating the place of capture, the date and the name of the trapper.

■ ADPAG intends to include the species in a maximum number of agreements with towns in the department in order to increase the trapping pressure on the species. The trappers are regularly informed of the need to transmit all available information on raccoons.

Note on applicable regulations

■ The species has been declared a pest for all of continental France (the decree dated 02 September 2016 on controlling non-native species through hunting, in application of article R. 427-6 of the Environmental code, lists the periods and conditions under which non-native species of animals deemed harmful shall be destroyed in continental France). Raccoons may be trapped year round and may be shot outside of the hunting season by persons having received individual authorisation from the prefecture.

■ The species is also listed as an invasive alien species of Union concern (European regulation 1143/2014). It is prohibited to release the species to the natural environment (ministerial decree, 30 July 2010).

Authors: Doriane Blottière, IUCN French committee, and Fabien Egal, ADPAG. January 2018.

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NON à l'éradication des ratons laveurs de Villenave d'Ornon (33140)



TUER n'est pas GÉRER

Aujourd'hui, nous n'abattons plus systématiquement les chiens et les chats errants de nos rues et nos campagnes, car c'était une méthode non pérenne. Cette méthode a pris fin avec l'adoption d'une stérilisation systématique de ces mammifères. De la même manière, une stérilisation des ratons laveurs capturés et ensuite relâchés dans leur milieu naturel assurerait quant à elle une gestion raisonnable et durable de cette question.

Les ratons laveurs étant des animaux inoffensifs ne causant comme dégâts que la fouille et éparpillement des déchets des riverains, il est donc impossible qu'ils portent préjudice à notre paysage ou ne blessent quiconque. Pourquoi dans ce cas adopter une mesure aussi violente et définitive ?

Vous qui n'avez pas été consulté, DONNEZ VOTRE AVIS A M. LE MAIRE
PATRICK PUJOL - 05 56 75 69 00 -
service.communication@mairie-villenavedornon.fr

Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique.

5. An anonymous leaflet distributed in the town of Villenave d'Ornon.

For more information

- ADPAG internet site:
<http://www.adpag.fr/>
- ADPAG 2017. Synthèse du piégeage en Gironde – Saison 2015/2016. Rapport, 49 p.
- Egal F. 2015. Les espèces de mammifères invasives en Gironde : récolte et traitement des données. Actes du XXXVIII^e Colloque francophone de mammalogie. 110-113.
<http://www.gt-ibma.eu/wpcontent/uploads/2015/11/Diapo-colloque-SFEPM-PDF.pdf>
- Léger F. 2017. Petits carnivores exotiques introduits : un point de la situation. ONCFS. Présentation lors du séminaire espèces exotiques envahissantes « de la réglementation à la gestion : comment agir ? », Parc naturel régional de la Montagne de Reims, 27 avril 2017.
http://www.gt-ibma.eu/wpcontent/uploads/2017/07/4b_petits-carnivores_oncfs-f-leger-seminaire-pnrmr.pdf
- Ruys T & Léger F. 2015. Situation du Raton laveur en France et zoom sur l'Aquitaine. Actes du XXXVIII^e Colloque Francophone de Mammalogie. 114-119.

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