



Protocol DNA sampling muskrat tail

Collect DNA samples

- DNA is only collected from relatively fresh animals; animals that are already clearly in decomposition do not yield suitable DNA.
- DNA is collected by cutting the tail tip (approximately 1-2 cm).
- Each tail point is placed in a separate jar with 96% alcohol. These jars are supplied by WENR, with a unique registration number on each jar.
- The jars with tail points are kept in the freezer until they are sent to the distribution point or WENR.
- DNA is collected in all inhabited area's (5x5 km), within the province of Friesland, in the 20 km zone in the neighboring provinces, and reference area's in Flanders and Germany.
- A DNA sample is taken from all animals per 5x5 km area until 1 adult male, 1 adult female and 1 juvenile (male or female) is sampled.
- A maximum of 1 juvenile is sampled at a trapping site.
- No juvenile is sampled at a trapping site if an adult animal has already been sampled there.
- No adult animal is sampled at a trapping site if a juvenile has already been sampled there.

Record information on DNA samples

The following data must be recorded for each DNA sample:

- Sample number (stated on the jar)
- Gender of the animal
- Age group (adult, juvenile) animal
- Traplocation (GPS coordinates)
- Catch date
- Name of trapper

The registration of this data in The Netherlands is preferably done via the app used by trappers.

Organization and transport of DNA samples

A regional coordinator has been appointed for each district, who is responsible for:

- the distribution of the sample material among the trappers;
- collecting the DNA samples;
- sending the samples to WENR;
- sending the associated information (from the app or Excel list) to WENR;
- monitoring the progress of the sampling, so to what extent the goals (per 5x5 km) have been achieved.

All DNA samples received from the regional coordinators are registered by WENR and stored in the freezer until the analysis is started.