



## Newletter 14 February 2022

### Welcome to the fourth Life MICA newsletter

This newsletter is published twice a year. Of course you can also find the latest news on [lifemica.eu](http://lifemica.eu). Enjoy reading!



### Muskrats trapped in Friesland after positive eDNA sample

In August/September 2021, 3 muskrats were caught in Friesland thanks to eDNA. It concerned an area with a low muskrat population. Tracking down muskrats and coypu can be made easier by detecting the DNA they leave behind in the water. This DNA is called environmental DNA (eDNA) and comes from, for example, intestinal cells in faeces. [Read more](#)



### Latest progress in development Smart Life Trap: first catch

This project aims to develop smart life traps that use image-recognition. Thus we prevent unwanted bycatches of protected species as European beaver or otter and only catch target species like coypu and muskrat. Recently we made good progress on the Smart Life Trap project. The first catch was made in the field. [Read more](#)

### Does DNA mapping help to manage the influx?

One of the components of the Life MICA project is a study into the interrelationship of muskrats. This allows migration routes to be determined. In the period February 2020 – February 2021, muskrat trappers in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany collected tail tips from muskrats for this research. Central to the research is the muskrat population in the province of Friesland. Samples were collected in Friesland and in a surrounding area. As a reference, samples were also collected in Germany (Vechte), Flanders, Rivierenland and Tiengemeten. [Read more](#)



### Video: detection of muskrats and coypu via eDNA

In November 2021, the detection of muskrats and coypu via eDNA was nominated for the Water Innovation Prize 2021. The project did not win, but in the video Abel de Boer of Wetterskip Fryslân and Tjeerd Weijers of the University of Amsterdam explain all about this subject (in Dutch).



We are always looking for interesting news, photos and videos from the project. Send your contributions to [info@lifemica.nl](mailto:info@lifemica.nl)

## LifeMICA.eu

Life MICA is an international cooperation with the goal to reduce coypu and muskrat population to a manageable size in order to prevent damage to waterways, biodiversity and plant life.



Deze e-mail is verzonden aan [{{email}}](#). • Als u geen nieuwsbrief meer wilt ontvangen, kunt u zich [hier afmelden](#). • U kunt ook uw [gegevens inzien en wijzigen](#). • Voor een goede ontvangst voegt u [info@lifemica.nl](mailto:info@lifemica.nl) toe aan uw adresboek.

