

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3863/06  
by Ian Hudghton (Verts/ALE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Non-locking snares - Non-selective means of trapping

Otters are protected under Annex IV(a) to the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)<sup>1</sup>. There have been recent reports of otters being caught in non-locking traps in Scotland and Cornwall, and having died as a direct result of their entrapment.

Annex VI(a) to the Habitats Directive prohibits the use of 'traps which are non-selective according to their principle or their conditions of use'.

On the evidence of otter deaths in Scotland and Cornwall, would the Commission agree that non-locking snares are a 'non-selective' means of trapping?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.