

Otter Control

2012-10-01

It has been brought to my attention that some club members are still using Comet or similar to dissuade the otters from messing up their boats. I agree that otters can be a problem, however depositing any form of cleaner such as Comet around the docks is against the Federal Fisheries act. Specifically: Section 36(3) states: "Subject to subsection (4), no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of a deleterious substance of any type in water frequented by fish or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance or any other deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance may enter any such water." Wordy stuff. It goes on to define "deleterious substance", "water frequented by fish" and "deposit" and it is clear that dumping chlorinated cleaners in or around the water constitutes an offense. Fortunately, an alternative is offered. I've been told that using containers filled with mothballs (with some holes punched in the sides so the smell can escape but the moth balls remain dry and in the containers) works well. It might seem like a minor thing, but spray cans using CFCs used to be considered harmless as well. Clean water is the responsibility of all of us. To that end, If you happen to catch someone creating pollution in the ocean, such as a freighter dumping bilge or oil coming down a creek, contact DFO's "Observe, Record and Report" line (<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/points/ORR-ONS-eng.htm>) or the Provincial "Report All Poachers and Polluters" line (<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/points/ORR-ONS-eng.htm>)