



## 2005 ASSEMBLY BILL 490

June 14, 2005 - Introduced by Representatives SUDER, MUSSER, FREESE, HINES, KREIBICH, HAHN, GRONEMUS, TOWNSEND and GUNDERSON, cosponsored by Senators ZIEN and BRESKE. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1     **AN ACT to create** 29.701 (4) of the statutes; **relating to:** damage to fish farms  
2             caused by otters.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection regulates fish farms. A fish farm is a facility at which a person hatches fish eggs or rears fish for various purposes including for introduction into the waters of this state or for human consumption.

This bill authorizes an operator of a registered fish farm, or the operator's employee, to capture or kill any otter on the fish farm that causes damage to the fish farm. The bill authorizes the operator or operator's employee to capture or kill the otter without obtaining a license or permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The bill also provides that upon the request of the fish farm operator, DNR must reimburse the operator for any damage caused by the otter to the fish farm, including damage to fish or fish eggs. Under the bill, the amount of reimbursement is determined by agreement between DNR and the fish farm operator.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

