



Traffic mortalities of the southern river otter and road-passes

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Introduction

It is important to note that the configuration of the road infrastructure is linked to the mortality levels of otters. In addition, it is stated that road deaths are probably the largest and fastest growing cause of unnatural mortality for European otters. In Chile, the first huillín accident was recorded in the tributary of the Imperial River, in the Araucanía Region. and third accidents The second were documented in 2024 in Lake Tarahuín, on Chiloé Island. The incidents are associated with road crossings that are characterized by having



Figure 1. Huillín run over, lake Tarahuín

culverts in the lower area, which triggered the first two accidents due to the collapse caused by the increase in water flow, causing the huillins to cross the road as the large torrent of water exceeds their swimming speed. On the other hand, next to the current road crossing of Lake Tarahuín are the rubble of the old road crossing, which was destroyed by the Chiloé earthquake. The cohabitation of huillíns and rodents in these ruins triggered the third accident, since the huillín, being a carnivorous animal, finds its prey in a more accessible way in the rubble found near the road.

Table 1. Speed comparison table

Speed	Recorder value (m/s)
Average swimming speed of the huillin	0,44
maximum speed recorded in the sewers	1,21



Road crossing Lake Tarahuín Chiloé island Los Lagos Region





Vilcún River road bridge Chiloé island Los Lagos Region

Conclusion

A beam-type bridge located over the Vilcún River, in the Chiloé island, was studied. This type of bridge has a space in the lower area allowing the correct flow of water and at the same time provides a safer environment for the movement of the



Figure 2. Beam type bridge, Vilcún river

species. This type of structure is a viable option to replace the road crossings where the accidents occurred since no limitations have been identified that could hinder the replacement of the road crossings with beam-type bridges. Therefore, implementing beam-type bridges and removing the debris located in Lake Tarahuín is essential to stop the accidents of huillines.

