

Turtles of the Northeast United States

2023 State Regulations Guide



Document Summary

The following pages contain quick reference information for states in the Northeast. This information was compiled in December 2022. For up-to-date information, please consult the state websites.

Common and scientific names for species follow:

Crother, B. I. (ed.). 2017. Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in Our Understanding pp. 1–102. SSAR Herpetological Circular 43.

Note: Excerpted state regulations are added for each state. Please consult the provided regulation links for full details and updated information.

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Turtles of the Northeast Status Summary Table

For both the Federal and State Status, E= Endangered and T= Threatened. **SGCN**= Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the different State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status			SGCN Species
			E	T	Other	
Atlantic Hawksbill Sea Turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata imbricata</i>	E	DE, MA, MD, NJ, NY, VA			DE, MA, MD, NJ, NY, RI, VA
Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>		ME, NH	MA, NY	PA=C	MA, ME, NH, NY, PA
Bog Turtle	<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i>	T	CT, DE, MA, NJ, NY, PA, VA	MD		CT, DE, MA, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA
Chinese Softshell	<i>Pelodiscus sinensis</i>				VA=I	
Coastal Plain Cooter	<i>Pseudemys concinna floridana</i>					
Cumberland Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta troostii</i>					VA
Eastern Chicken Turtle	<i>Deirochelys reticularia reticularia</i>		VA			VA
Eastern Musk Turtle	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>				VT=SC	NY, VT
Eastern Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta picta</i>					NJ
Eastern River Cooter	<i>Pseudemys concinna concinna</i>				MD=I, NY=P	WV
Eastern Spiny Softshell	<i>Apalone spinifera spinifera</i>			VT	MD=IC, NJ=I, NY=SC	MD, NY, VA, VT, WV
False Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys pseudogeographica</i>				MD= I	
Green Sea Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	T	DE	CT, MA, MD, NJ, NY, VA		CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NY, RI, VA
Gulf Coast Spiny Softshell	<i>Apalone spinifera aspera</i>				VA=I	
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	E	CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NY, VA			CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NY, RI, VA
Leatherback Sea Turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	E	CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NY, VA			CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NY, RI, VA
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	T	DE, NJ	CT, MA, MD, ME, NH, NY, VA		CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VA
Midland Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta marginata</i>				NY=P	
Midland Smooth Softshell	<i>Apalone mutica mutica</i>				PA=X	WV

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status			SGCN Species
			E	T	Other*	
Mississippi Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys pseudogeographica kohnii</i>				VA=I	
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin	<i>Malaclemys terrapin terrapin</i>		RI	MA	CT=SC	CT, DE, MA, MD, NJ, NY, RI, VA
Northern Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys geographica</i>		MD		VT=SC	MD, NY, VA, WV
Northern Red-bellied Cooter	<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>		MA	PA	NY=I	DE, MA, MD, NJ, PA, WV
Ouachita Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys ouachitensis</i>					WV
Pond Slider ¹	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>				MA=I, ME=I	
Red-eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>				CT=I, DE=I, MD=I, NH=I, NJ=I, NY=I, PA=I, RI=I, VA=I, VT=I	
Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>					NY, VA
Southeastern Mud Turtle	<i>Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum</i>		NY, PA			NJ, NY, PA
Spotted Turtle	<i>Clemmys guttata</i>		VT	ME, NH	CT=SC, NJ=SC, NY=SC,	CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV
Striped Mud Turtle	<i>Kinosternon bairii</i>					DE
Stripe-necked Musk Turtle	<i>Sternotherus minor peltifer</i>					VA
Wood Turtle	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>			NJ, VA	CT=SC, MA=SC, ME=SC, NH=SC, NY=SC, VT=SC, RI=IC	CT, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV
Woodland Box Turtle (Eastern Box Turtle)	<i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i>		ME, NH		CT=SC, MA=SC, NJ=SC, NY=SC	CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, WV
Yellow-bellied Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta scripta</i>				DE=I, MD=I, NY=I	VA

¹In some states, such as Maine and Massachusetts, the Red-eared Slider and Yellow-bellied Slider are lumped into the Pond Slider category.

*Other categories: C=Candidate, X=Extirpated, I=Introduced/Non-native and/or Invasive, SC=Species of Special Concern, IC=In Need of Concern, and P=Protected

Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need

In 2022, the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee (NEFWDC) identified 11 species of turtles as Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need (RSGCN) in the Northeast and two species as Watchlist. Four of these species have both high regional responsibility and high or very high regional concern. Through this process, the northern population of the bog turtle was identified as one of the highest-priority species.

Many of these species have been the focus of regional conservation efforts, coordinated by states and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), to help prevent further population declines and the need for a listing under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Highest Priority RSGCN: Turtles						
Common Name	Scientific Name	NE RSGCN Status	RSGCN Responsibility	RSGCN Concern	Federal Status*	CITES Listing
Atlantic Hawksbill Sea Turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata imbricata</i>	Watchlist	<25%	—	E	I
Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	RSGCN	<25%	V. High	—	II
Bog Turtle (Northern pop.)	<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i>	RSGCN	100%	V. High	T	I
Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	RSGCN	<25%	V. High	E,T	I
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	RSGCN	<25%	V. High	E	I
Leatherback Sea Turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	RSGCN	<25%	V. High	E	I
Loggerhead	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	RSGCN	<25%	V. High	E,T	I
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin	<i>Malaclemys terrapin terrapin</i>	RSGCN	25-50%	Moderate	—	II
Northern Red-bellied Cooter (MA population)	<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>	RSGCN	100%	High	E	—
Spiny Softshell	<i>Apalone spinifera</i>	Watchlist	<25%	—	—	III
Spotted Turtle	<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	RSGCN	50-75%	High	—	II
Wood Turtle	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	RSGCN	75-100%	High	—	II
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i>	RSGCN	25-50%	Moderate	—	II

*Federal Status Categories: E=Endangered, T=Threatened.

Citation:

Terwilliger Consulting, Inc. and the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee. 2023. Northeast Regional Synthesis for State Wildlife Action Plans. A report submitted to the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Committee. Locustville, VA.

Federal Regulations

TITLE 21--FOOD AND DRUGS
CHAPTER I--FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SUBCHAPTER L - REGULATIONS UNDER CERTAIN OTHER ACTS ADMINISTERED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION

PART 1240 -- CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Subpart D - Specific Administrative Decisions Regarding Interstate Shipments

Sec. 1240.62 Turtles intrastate and interstate requirements.

(a) *Definition.* As used in this section the term "turtles" includes all animals commonly known as turtles, tortoises, terrapins, and all other animals of the order Testudinata, class Reptilia, except marine species (families Dermachelidae and Chelonidae).

(b) *Sales; general prohibition.* Except as otherwise provided in this section, viable turtle eggs and live turtles with a carapace length of less than 4 inches shall not be sold, held for sale, or offered for any other type of commercial or public distribution.

(c) *Exceptions.* The provisions of this section are not applicable to:

(1) The sale, holding for sale, and distribution of live turtles and viable turtle eggs for bona fide scientific, educational, or exhibitional purposes, other than use as pets.

(2) The sale, holding for sale, and distribution of live turtles and viable turtle eggs not in connection with a business.

(3) The sale, holding for sale, and distribution of live turtles and viable turtle eggs intended for export only, provided that the outside of the shipping package is conspicuously labeled "For Export Only."

(4) Marine turtles excluded from this regulation under the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section and eggs of such turtles.

(d) *Petitions.* The Commissioner of Food and Drugs, either on his own initiative or on behalf of any interested person who has submitted a petition, may publish a proposal to amend this regulation. Any such petition shall include an adequate factual basis to support the petition, and will be published for comment if it contains reasonable grounds for the proposed regulation. A petition requesting such a regulation, which would amend this regulation, shall be submitted to the Division of Dockets Management, Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

[40 FR 22545, May 23, 1975, as amended at 46 FR 8461, Jan. 27, 1981; 48 FR 11431, Mar. 18, 1983; 54 FR 24900, June 12, 1989; 59 FR 14366, Mar. 28, 1994; 66 FR 56035, Nov. 6, 2001; 70 FR 48073, Aug. 18, 2005; 78 FR 44881, July 25, 2013]

Related Document: Menu of State Turtle-Associated Salmonellosis Laws (CDC):

<https://www.cdc.gov/php/docs/turtle-menu.pdf>

Connecticut

Thirteen turtle species, including four sea turtles, occur in Connecticut. Nine of these turtles are currently on the state's List of Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species. Turtle management falls under the [Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection \(DEEP\), Bureau of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division](#).

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit
Bog Turtle	Threatened	Endangered	Y	
Eastern Musk Turtle				
Eastern Painted Turtle				
Green Sea Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Leatherback Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin		Special Concern	Y	
Red-eared Slider		Non-native		
Snapping Turtle				10 ⁽¹⁾
Spotted Turtle		Special Concern	Y	1
Wood Turtle		Special Concern	Y	
Woodland Box Turtle		Special Concern	Y	

Regulations: <https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Browse/getDocument?guid=%7BD0E38E56-0000-CCCD-B87B-ABCD1F121231%7D>

⁽¹⁾ No person shall possess in excess of ten (10) adult Snapping Turtles, (*Chelydra serpentina*), at any time. This restriction shall not apply to turtles that can be documented as being bred in captivity and legally obtained.

Species Information: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Learn-About-Wildlife/Wildlife-Fact-Sheets#reptiles>

Rare Species List: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Endangered-Species/Endangered-Species-Listings/Endangered-Threatened--Special-Concern-Reptiles>

Other Resources:

- Klemens, M.W., Gruner, H.J., Quinn, D.P. and E.R. Davison. 2021. Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles in Connecticut.

Delaware

Seventeen turtle species, including five sea turtles, occur in Delaware. Turtle management falls under the [Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Fish and Wildlife](#).

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit ⁽¹⁾
Atlantic Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Bog Turtle	Threatened	Endangered	Y	
Eastern Musk Turtle				1
Eastern Painted Turtle				1
Green Sea Turtle	Threatened	Endangered	Y	
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Leatherback Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Threatened	Endangered	Y	
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin			Y	1
Northern Red-bellied Cooter			Y	1
Red-eared Slider		Non-native		No limit
Snapping Turtle				1
Southeastern Mud Turtle				1
Spotted Turtle			Y	
Striped Mud Turtle			Y	
Woodland Box Turtle			Y	1
Yellow-bellied Slider		Non-native		No limit

Regulations: <https://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title7/3000/3900%20Wildlife/3915.shtml>

15.2 Collection and Possession of Reptiles and Amphibians.

15.2.1 Unless otherwise provided by law or regulation of the Department, it shall be unlawful for any person to remove from the wild or possess any native reptile or amphibian species, their eggs or parts without a permit from the Director.

⁽¹⁾**15.2.2** Notwithstanding subsection 15.1.1 of this section, one individual of each of the following species or subspecies of reptiles and amphibians, may be collected and possessed without a permit.

Species Information: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/outdoor-delaware/endangered-species/>

Rare Species List: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/conservation/endangered-species/>

Maine

The [Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife](#) manages turtle species.

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit ⁽¹⁾
Blanding's Turtle		Endangered	Y	
Eastern Musk Turtle				2
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Leatherback Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Eastern Painted Turtle				2
Pond Slider*		Non-native		
Snapping Turtle				2
Spotted Turtle		Threatened	Y	
Wood Turtle		Special Concern	Y	
Woodland Box Turtle		Endangered	Y	

*In some states, the Red-eared Slider and Yellow-bellied Slider are lumped into the Pond Slider category. These are Category I restricted species. A permit is required to import or possess. More info can be found here https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/import_cat1.pdf

Regulations: <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/12/title12sec12152.html>

1-A. Permit required. Except as otherwise provided in this Part, a person may not import wildlife into or possess wildlife in the State or receive or possess wildlife imported into the State. The department shall maintain a list of unregulated fish and wildlife species for which a permit under this section is not required that is available to the public. Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable permit fee must be imposed. The commissioner may grant a permit to introduce, import, transport, receive or possess fish or gametes in accordance with the provisions of section 12509.

1-B. Exemption. Notwithstanding subsection 1-A, a reptile, amphibian or invertebrate that is native to the State and not listed by the department as threatened or endangered or as a species of special concern may be captured from the wild in the State and possessed without a permit. Possession limits for each species are as follows:

- A. Amphibians, up to 5 specimens of each species; [PL 2017, c. 205, §15 (NEW).]
- B. Reptiles, up to 2 specimens of each species; and [PL 2017, c. 205, §15 (NEW).]

Species Information: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fish-wildlife/wildlife/species-information/reptiles-amphibians/index.html>

Rare Species List: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fish-wildlife/wildlife/endangered-threatened-species/index.html>

Other Resources:

- Maine Amphibian and Reptile Atlas <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fish-wildlife/wildlife/species-information/reptiles-amphibians/atlas-project.html>

Maryland

Twenty-three turtle species, including four introduced/naturalized species, occur in Maryland. The [Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service](#) manages turtle species in Maryland.

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit
Atlantic Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Bog Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Eastern Musk Turtle				1
Eastern Painted Turtle				1*
Eastern River Cooter		Non-native		
Eastern Spiny Softshell		In Need of Conservation	Y	
False Map Turtle		Non-native		
Green Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Leatherback Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Midland Painted Turtle				1*
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin			Y	
Northern Map Turtle		Endangered	Y	
Northern Red-bellied Cooter			Y	1
Red-eared Slider		Non-native		
Snapping Turtle				1 ⁽¹⁾
Southeastern Mud Turtle				1
Spotted Turtle			Y	
Striped Mud Turtle				
Wood Turtle			Y	
Woodland Box Turtle			Y	1
Yellow-bellied Slider		Non-native		

*Possession limit of 2 includes combined possession of both Eastern and Midland Painted Turtles.

Regulations: <https://dsd.maryland.gov/Pages/COMARSearch.aspx#k=08.03.11#l=1033>

⁽¹⁾Snapping Turtles are regulated by Maryland Fisheries Service:
<https://dsd.maryland.gov/regulations/Pages/08.02.06.01.aspx>

Species Information:

https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/herps/FieldGuide_OrderTestudines.aspx

Rare Species List: https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/rte/rteanimals.aspx

Other Resources:

- Maryland Amphibian and Reptile Atlas (2018) edited by Heather R. Cunningham and Nathan H. Nazdrowicz

Massachusetts

Over 15 species of turtles can be found in Massachusetts, including two introduced (non-native) turtle species. The [Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife](#) manages turtle species in Massachusetts.

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit
Atlantic Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Blanding's Turtle		Threatened	Y	
Bog Turtle	Threatened	Endangered	Y	
Eastern Musk Turtle				May be possessed
Eastern Painted Turtle				May be possessed
Eastern Spiny Softshell		Non-native		May be possessed
Green Sea Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Leatherback Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin		Threatened	Y	
Northern Red-bellied Cooter		Endangered	Y	
Pond Slider ¹		Non-native		May be possessed with a permit
Snapping Turtle				2
Spotted Turtle			Y	
Wood Turtle		Special Concern	Y	
Woodland Box Turtle		Special Concern	Y	

¹In some states, the Red-eared Slider and Yellow-bellied Slider are lumped into the Pond Slider category.

Regulations:

- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/fishing-reptiles-and-amphibians>
- <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/321-CMR-900-exemption-list>

Species Information: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/turtles-of-massachusetts>

Rare Species List: <https://www.mass.gov/rare-reptile-and-amphibian-conservation>

New Hampshire

The [New Hampshire Fish and Game](#) manages turtle species in New Hampshire.

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit
Blanding's Turtle		Endangered	Y	
Eastern Musk Turtle				2
Eastern Painted Turtle				2
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Red-eared Slider		Non-native		
Snapping Turtle				2
Spotted Turtle		Threatened	Y	
Wood Turtle		Special Concern	Y	
Woodland Box Turtle		Endangered	Y	

Regulations: <https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/nongame/rules-amp-rept.html>

Possession includes the keeping, holding, or restricting of wildlife as defined in RSA 207:1. Includes eggs or progeny thereof.

The following species (Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*), Eastern (woodland) Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*), or any egg or part thereof) **shall not be possessed** without an appropriate permit: (FIS 804.02; to request a permit see instructions under FIS 804.04).

NOTE: No permit to possess shall be issued if there is any disease, genetic, ecological, environmental, health, safety or welfare risks to the public or other wildlife species.

- Blanding's Turtle
- Eastern (woodland) Box Turtle
- Spotted Turtle
- Wood Turtle

Species Information: <https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/nongame/turtles.html>

Rare Species List: <https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/species-list.html#reptiles>

Other Resources:

- Reptile and Amphibian Reporting Program (RAARP)
<https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/nongame/reptiles-amphibians.html>

New Jersey

Over 17 species of turtles can be found in New Jersey. The [New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Fish and Wildlife](#) manages turtle species in New Jersey.

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit
Atlantic Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Bog Turtle	Threatened	Endangered	Y	
Eastern Musk Turtle				
Eastern Painted Turtle			Y	
Eastern Spiny Softshell		Non-native		
Green Sea Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Leatherback Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Threatened	Endangered	Y	
Midland Painted Turtle				
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin			Y	
Northern Map Turtle				
Northern Red-bellied Cooter			Y	
Red-eared Slider		Non-native		
Snapping Turtle				1
Southeastern Mud Turtle			Y	
Spotted Turtle		Special Concern	Y	
Wood Turtle		Threatened	Y	
Woodland Box Turtle		Special Concern	Y	

Regulations: <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/conservation/endangered-species-conservation-act/>

Snapping turtles: <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wp-content/uploads/njfw/fishcode22-25.pdf>

Collection of live animals to be kept as pets is not permitted. Recreational collection for personal consumption is allowed for Bullfrogs, Green Frogs, and Snapping Turtles with a freshwater fishing license.

Species Information: <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/reptiles-and-amphibians-in-new-jersey/>

Rare Species List: <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/new-jerseys-endangered-and-threatened-wildlife/>

Other Resources:

- Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey by Vicki Schwartz & David M. Golden (online and in print)

New York

There are 17 species of turtles native to New York and several introduced non-native species. The [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#) manages turtle species in New York.

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit
Atlantic Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Blanding's Turtle		Threatened	Y	
Bog Turtle	Threatened	Endangered	Y	
Eastern Musk Turtle			Y	
Eastern Painted Turtle				
Eastern Spiny Softshell		Special Concern	Y	
Green Sea Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Leatherback Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Midland Painted Turtle				
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin			Y	
Northern Map Turtle			Y	
Northern Red-bellied Cooter		Non-native		
Red-eared Slider		Non-native		
Snapping Turtle			Y	5/30 ⁽¹⁾
Southeastern Mud Turtle		Endangered	Y	
Spotted Turtle		Special Concern	Y	
Wood Turtle		Special Concern	Y	
Woodland Box Turtle		Special Concern	Y	
Yellow-bellied Slider		Non-native		

Regulations:

- **6 CRR-NY 3.2:**
<https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I21bf619bc22211ddb7c8fb397c5bd26b?bhcp=1&transitionType=Default&contextData=%28sc.Default%29>
- **ENV Article 11:** <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/ENV/A11>
- [Reptile and Amphibian Hunting Seasons](#)
 - All reptiles and amphibians are legally protected as small game species in New York, with very few open to harvest. The only turtle species for which there is an open hunting season is the Snapping Turtle. You may not harvest, take, or possess any other native turtle species at any time without a permit.
 - ⁽¹⁾ The daily bag limit is 5 and season limit is 30.

Species Information: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7479.html>

Rare Species List:

- https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/vertchklst0410.pdf
- <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html#>

Other Resources:

- <https://guides.nynhp.org/animals/>
- The Amphibians and Reptiles of New York State: Identification, Life History and Conservation. (2007). By James Gibbs, Alvin Breisch, Peter Ducey, Glenn Johnson, John Behler, and Richard Bothner



Pennsylvania

Fourteen species are native to Pennsylvania. Turtles are managed under the [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission](#).

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit
Blanding's Turtle		Candidate	Y	
Bog Turtle	Threatened	Endangered	Y	
Eastern Musk Turtle				1
Eastern Painted Turtle				1
Eastern Spiny Softshell				1
Midland Painted Turtle				1
Midland Smooth Softshell		Extirpated		
Northern Map Turtle				1
Northern Red-bellied Cooter		Threatened	Y	
Red-eared Slider		Non-native		
Snapping Turtle				15/30 ⁽¹⁾
Southeastern Mud Turtle		Endangered	Y	
Spotted Turtle			Y	
Wood Turtle			Y	
Woodland Box Turtle			Y	

Regulations:

- It is unlawful to take, catch, kill or possess for the purposes of selling or offering for sale, importing or exporting for consideration, trading or bartering or purchasing an amphibian or reptile whether dead or alive, in whole or in parts, including the eggs or any life stage that was taken from lands or waters within this Commonwealth.
- It is unlawful to transport or import into or within this Commonwealth a native species from another jurisdiction. It is also unlawful to receive a native species that was transported or imported into or within this Commonwealth from another jurisdiction.
- ⁽¹⁾The daily bag limit for snapping turtles is 15 and season limit is 30. The season is July 1 through October 31.

Species Information:

<https://www.fishandboat.com/Resource/AmphibiansandReptiles/PaAmphibiansReptiles/Pages/TheTurtles.aspx>

Rare Species List: <https://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/SpeciesFeatures.aspx>

Other Resources:

- **Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey:** <https://paherpsurvey.org/species.php#Turtles>
- Amphibians and Reptiles of Pennsylvania and the Northeast (2001) by A. Hulse

Rhode Island

Twelve native species of turtles can be found in Rhode Island, and one non-native species can also be found. The [Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management \(DEM\)](#) manages turtle species in Rhode Island.

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit
Atlantic Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Endangered		Y	
Eastern Musk Turtle				
Eastern Painted Turtle				
Green Sea Turtle	Threatened		Y	
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	Endangered		Y	
Leatherback Sea Turtle	Endangered		Y	
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Threatened		Y	
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin		Endangered	Y	
Red-eared Slider		Non-native		
Snapping Turtle				6
Spotted Turtle			Y	
Wood Turtle		Concern	Y	
Woodland Box Turtle			Y	

Species Information: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/turtle.pdf>

Regulations:

- Rhode Island Reptile and Amphibian Rules and Regulations**
 - <https://dem.ri.gov/media/66306/download>
 - <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-40-05-3>
- Possession of Red Eared Slider Turtles.** No person other than a bona fide researcher, or a licensed pet shop and their transportation carriers shall import any Red-eared Slider turtles (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). All persons other than a bona fide researcher, or a licensed pet shops and their transportation agents are prohibited from possessing Red Eared Slider turtles unless they are kept indoors as pets in a manner that will prevent their escape or liberation into the wild. Keeping of these animals in any type of outdoor enclosure is prohibited.
- The only species of reptiles and amphibians for which there is an open season are Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), Green Frog (*Lithobates clamitans*), and Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*). The possession, removal from the wild, or killing, for any purpose, of any other native reptile or amphibian to include their nests and eggs is prohibited except by special permit.

Rare Species List: <https://rinhs.org/species/rare-species/>

Vermont

Eight native turtle species and one non-native turtle species occur in Vermont. Turtle populations are managed by the [Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department](#).

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit
Eastern Musk Turtle		Special Concern	Y	
Eastern Painted Turtle				
Eastern Spiny Softshell		Threatened	Y	
Midland Painted Turtle				
Northern Map Turtle		Special Concern		
Red-eared Slider		Non-native		
Snapping Turtle				
Spotted Turtle		Endangered	Y	
Wood Turtle		Special Concern	Y	

Regulations:

- Governing the importation and possession of wild animals, excluding fish:
 - <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10APPENDIX/001/00018>
- Vermont endangered and threatened species rule:
 - <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10APPENDIX/001/00010>
- Protection Of Endangered Species:
 - <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/123>

Species Information:

- **Spiny Softshell:**
 - <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/conservation/conservation-planning/animal-inventory/reptiles-and-amphibians/turtle-project-results>
 - <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/node/635>
- **Wood Turtle:**
 - <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/node/634>

Rare Species List: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/conservation/conservation-planning/animal-inventory/reptiles-and-amphibians/turtle-project-results>

Other Resources:

- **Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas:** <https://www.vtherpatlas.org/>
- **Vermont Spotted Turtle Recovery Plan:**
<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Library/REPORTS%20AND%20DOCUMENTS/NONGAME%20AND%20NATURAL%20HERITAGE/RECOVERY%20PLANS/Vermont-Spotted-Turtle-Recovery-Plan-17-19.pdf>
- **Vermont Eastern Spiny Softshell Recovery Plan:**
<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Library/REPORTS%20AND%20DOCUMENTS/NONGAME%20AND%20NATURAL%20HERITAGE/RECOVERY%20PLANS/Vermont%20Spiny%20Softshell%20Turtle%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf>

Virginia

Twenty-nine turtle species, including five introduced/naturalized species, occur in Virginia. The [Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources](#) manages turtles.

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit
Atlantic Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Bog Turtle	Threatened	Endangered	Y	
Chinese Softshell		Non-native		
Coastal Plain Cooter				
Cumberland Slider			Y	
Eastern Chicken Turtle		Endangered	Y	
Eastern Musk Turtle				1
Eastern Painted Turtle				1
Eastern River Cooter				1
Eastern Spiny Softshell			Y	
Green Sea Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Gulf Coast Spiny Softshell		Non-native		1
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Leatherback Sea Turtle	Endangered	Endangered	Y	
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Threatened	Threatened	Y	
Midland Painted Turtle				1
Mississippi Map Turtle		Non-native		1
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin			Y	
Northern Map Turtle			Y	
Northern Red-bellied Cooter				1
Red-eared Slider		Non-native		
Snapping Turtle			Y	*
Southeastern Mud Turtle				1
Spotted Turtle			Y	
Striped Mud Turtle				1
Striped-necked Musk Turtle			Y	
Wood Turtle		Threatened	Y	
Woodland Box Turtle			Y	
Yellow-bellied Slider			Y	

* Recreational harvest for personal consumption (bag limit of 5 per day), 1 per residency for personal possession or use.

Regulations: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title4/agency15/chapter360/section10>

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/reptiles/commercial-harvest-of-snapping-turtles-in-virginia/>

Possession limits. Except as otherwise provided for in § 29.1-418 of the Code of Virginia, 4VAC15-20-130, 4VAC15-320-40, and the sections of this chapter, it shall be lawful to capture and possess live for private use and not for sale or export no more than one individual of any native or naturalized, as defined in 4VAC15-20-50, species of amphibian or reptile per physical address, and 20 individuals of any

single native or naturalized (as defined in 4VAC15-20-50) species of aquatic invertebrate and nongame fish unless specifically listed in this subsection.

Species Information: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/information/>

Rare Species List: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/virginia-threatened-endangered-species.pdf>

Other Resources:

- **Virginia Herpetological Society** <https://www.virginiaherpetologicalsociety.com/>



Snapping Turtle by Sam Stukel/ USFWS

West Virginia

West Virginia is home to 13 species of turtles and one subspecies. The [West Virginia Division of Natural Resources](#) manages turtles.

Species	Federal Status	State Status	SGCN Species	Possession Limit
Eastern Musk Turtle				
Eastern Painted Turtle				
Eastern River Cooter			Y	
Eastern Spiny Softshell			Y	10/20
Midland Painted Turtle				
Midland Smooth Softshell			Y	
Northern Map Turtle			Y	
Northern Red-bellied Cooter			Y	
Ouachita Map Turtle			Y	
Red-eared Slider				
Snapping Turtle				10/20
Spotted Turtle			Y	
Wood Turtle			Y	
Woodland Box Turtle			Y	

Regulations: <https://wvdnr.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ReptileandAmphibianRule.pdf>

1.1. These regulations establish open seasons and possession limits for reptiles and amphibians in West Virginia. The take or possession of any native West Virginia reptile or amphibian species not listed hereafter is prohibited pursuant to W.Va. Code 20-2-4.

3.2. It is unlawful to take or possess any reptile or amphibian from any area under agreement with, owned, controlled, or administered by the Division of Natural Resources, except pursuant to subsections 3.2.1. and 3.2.2. of this rule.

4.5. A person may take and possess a daily creel limit of 10 Eastern Spiny Softshell (*Apalone s. spinifera*) and Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra s. serpentina*) and the possession limit in aggregate is 20 for these species of turtles.

Species Information: <https://wvdnr.gov/plants-animals/amphibians-reptiles/>

Rare Species List: <https://wvdnr.gov/plants-animals/rare-threatened-endangered-species/>