

## **REGULATIONS ON THE TAKE OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

Under the authority of sections 43509, 48702 and 48705 of PA 451, being sections 324.43509, 324.48702, and 324.48705 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, The Director of the Department of Natural Resources on October 12, 2001, ordered that:

It shall be unlawful to kill, take, trap, possess, buy, sell, offer to buy or sell, barter, or attempt to take, trap, possess or barter any reptile or amphibian from the wild, or the eggs of any reptile or amphibian from the wild, except as provided within this order.

### **GENERAL**

1. The following species of reptiles and amphibians shall not be taken from the wild and possessed except as authorized under a permit from the director:  
  
Six Lines Racerunner (*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*)  
Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*)  
Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)  
Wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*)  
Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*)  
Black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*)  
Blanchard's Cricket frog (*Acris crepitans blanchardi*)  
Boreal Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata maculata*)  
Those reptiles and amphibians protected under the Endangered Species Act,  
Part 365 of Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994.
2. A person may collect reptiles and amphibians or their eggs for research studies or other special use under a permit issued by the director's designated fisheries representative. The permit shall be valid only for the species, number, manner and time specified on the permit.
3. A person may take certain species of reptiles and amphibians for personal take. See items listed under personal take.
4. Commercial take of reptiles and amphibians is restricted to snapping turtles and green frogs. See items listed under commercial take.
5. Reptiles may be taken only by hand, trap, seines up to 12 x 4 feet overall dimension, hand net, or hook and line as defined in Section 48703 of Act 451 of 1994.
6. Amphibians may be taken by hand, hook and line, hand net or trap where not otherwise prohibited by law. In addition, frogs may be speared. As provided by Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, frogs shall not be speared with the aid of an artificial light.
7. Traps used or possessed in areas frequented by reptiles must have a plate or tag attached bearing the name and address of the user in legible English.
8. It is illegal to possess or transport in the field, dressed or processed reptiles or amphibians that cannot be measured or identified.
9. A person shall immediately release to the wild any reptile or amphibian that is taken during

a closed season, is under the legal size, or is otherwise protected.

10. Snapping and softshell turtles may only be taken each year from July 1 to September 30 in the Lower Peninsula, and from July 15 to September 30 in the Upper Peninsula.
11. A person may only take and possess snapping turtles with a carapace length of 12 inches or more.
12. Reptile eggs may not be disturbed or removed from the wild except as authorized under a permit by the Director.

### **PERSONAL TAKE**

1. Traps used for the taking of turtles shall be limited to no more than 3 traps, shall be constructed and set in a manner to allow turtles to surface and breathe, and shall be constructed of mesh at least 1 inch wide at the narrowest measurement.
2. Reptiles other than snapping turtles, softshell turtles and those species listed under General Section #1 of this order may be taken at any time.
3. Amphibians other than those listed under General Section #1 may be taken from the last Saturday in May to November 15.
4. A fishing license is required for those 17 years and older to take reptiles and amphibians for personal use.
5. All reptiles and amphibians taken for personal take shall not be bought, sold or offered for sale.
6. The daily limit for reptiles other than snapping turtles shall be a combination of 3. The daily limit for snapping turtles shall be 3 for personal take under a sport fishing license. The possession limit for reptiles other than snapping turtles shall be a combination of 6. The possession limit for snapping turtles shall be 6.
7. The daily and possession limit for amphibians shall be 10 in combination.

### **COMMERCIAL TAKE**

1. A commercial reptile and amphibian license is required of a person to take, trap, catch or fish for snapping turtles and green frogs for commercial purposes. Snapping turtles and green frogs taken under the authority of a commercial reptile and amphibian license in accordance with this order, may be bought and sold as specified in the following regulations.
2. The commercial take and sale of turtles and frogs is permitted as following:
  - a. Species permitted for commercial sale under a Michigan reptile and amphibian license:

Snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*)  
Green frog (*Rana clamitans*)

- b. Traps used for the taking of turtles shall be limited to no more than 10 traps and shall be constructed and set in a manner to allow turtles to surface and breathe, and shall be constructed of mesh at least 1 inch wide at the narrowest measurement.
  - c. Traps used or possessed in areas frequented by reptiles must, in addition to the name and address of users, bear the commercial license number of the licensee.
  - d. The daily limit for snapping turtles is 10 and the possession limit 50. The daily limit for green frogs shall be 25 with a possession limit of 50.
3. Holders of a Michigan reptile and amphibian commercial license shall submit an annual catch report on forms provided by the Director to: Fisheries Division, MDNR, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48910, by November 1 of the license year. The report shall contain an accurate record of all reptiles and amphibians taken during the year for commercial purposes. Failure to submit a report by the due date will be considered delinquent and notice to that effect may be mailed to such delinquent persons by the Director. Failure to submit a report within ten days of the notice shall be considered as intent to violate the provisions of this order. The license of any person who fails to submit an annual report, and who has been duly notified by the Director as provided herein, may be suspended by the Director until such time as the delinquent reports are submitted to the Director. Any person failing to make the report or reports as above described shall be denied a new license for the person's place of business until in compliance with the provisions of this section of this order.
4. As provided by PA 424 of the Public Acts of 1988, being MCL 287.311 through 287.314, any person that sells or distributes any viable turtle eggs or live turtles with a carapace length of less than 4 inches shall also provide the purchaser with a health advisory sheet prepared by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. A violation of this act is punishable by a fine of \$1000.00 or 90 days in jail, or both.

This order supersedes the Director's Order entitled "Regulation on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians," effective November 18, 1998, and assigned the number DFI-166.98.

This order is assigned number FO-224.02 and is titled "Regulations on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians".

This order shall take immediate effect and shall remain effective until revised or rescinded.