

Freshwater Turtle Draft Rule
Agenda Item 5 B (1)

Draft Rule

(6) Turtles

(a) Take and possession—

1. No person shall take, transport, or possess any turtle listed in 68A-27.005, F.A.C. (alligator snapping turtle, Barbour's map turtle or Suwannee cooter), their eggs, or parts thereof except as provided in 68A-27.005, F.A.C.

2. For turtles not listed in chapter 68A-27, F.A.C., the following restrictions control the take or possession:

a. No person shall take more than one turtle per day unless authorized by permit from the executive director as provided in section 68A-9.002, F.A.C.

b. Turtle eggs may not be taken from the wild.

c. Turtles may only be taken by hand, baited hooks, minnow seine nets or dip nets.

d. No person shall take Escambia map turtles (*Graptemys ernsti*), cooters (*Pseudemys* sp.) or snapping turtles (*Chelydra* sp.) from the wild.

e. No softshell turtles (*Apalone* sp.) may be taken from the wild during the period May 1 to July 31.

f. No person shall possess more than two Escambia map turtles, two diamondback terrapins, two box turtles, or two loggerhead musk turtles.

g. The Commission recognizes aquaculture as an alternative to commercial harvest of wild populations of freshwater turtles. An owner, manager, agents or director of an aquaculture facility certified by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to section 597.004, F.S. and chapter 5L-3, F.A.C. may harvest freshwater turtles as brood stock for scientific or commercial aquaculture as authorized by permit from the executive director limiting the location of harvest activities, duration of harvest activities, species of turtles to be harvested, number and size of turtles to be harvested to prevent overharvest of freshwater turtles. The need to continue issuing these permits shall be reviewed on or before June 30, 2011, and unless action is taken otherwise, this sub-subparagraph will sunset on Sept. 30, 2011, and all permits previously issued under this sub-subparagraph will expire Sept. 30, 2011.

(b) Transport—

1. No person shall transport more than one turtle per day or any turtle eggs unless authorized by one of the following:

a. A permit from the executive director as provided in Rule 68A-9.002, F.A.C. An individual transporting turtles under the authority of this permit shall possess a copy of the permit.

b. An aquaculture facility certification issued by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services under section 597.004, F.S. and chapter 5L-3, F.A.C. An individual transporting turtles under the authority of this certification shall possess a copy of such certificate.

c. A license for sale or exhibition of wildlife under Section 379.304, F.S. An individual transporting more than one turtle under the authority of this license shall possess a copy of such license.

(c) Sale—No person shall buy, sell, or possess for sale turtles, their eggs or parts thereof, that have been taken from the wild.