

STATE OF FLORIDA  
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Executive Order Number: EO 20-19

**Regulations of Reptiles in Chapter 68-5, F.A.C.**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, and acting through its Executive Director under 68-1.009, F.A.C., Delegations of Authority, February 14, 2013, Paragraph 17, hereby establishes special regulations to take effect July 1, 2020, in order to conform with Laws of Florida that amends Section 379.372, Florida Statutes. This statute regulates certain high-risk nonnative invasive reptiles in Florida, particularly those listed as Conditional, Prohibited, Venomous, and Reptiles of Concern. These regulations are necessary due to ecological, economic and human health and safety concerns related to potential impacts of nonnative reptiles in Florida.

1) The regulations below apply to the following species of reptile:

- a. Burmese or Indian python (*Python molurus*)
- b. Reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*)
- c. Northern African python (*Python sebae*)
- d. Southern African python (*Python natalensis*)
- e. Amethystine or scrub python (*Morelia amenthystinus*)
- f. Green anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*)
- g. Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*)
- h. Green iguana (*Iguana iguana*)
- i. Teg lizard (any species of the genera *Salvator* or *Tupinambis*)
- j. Reptiles designated as Conditional or Prohibited by the Commission in Rules 68-5.004 and 68-5.006, F.A.C., except red-eared sliders, which are regulated as identified below.

2) A person, party, firm, association, or corporation may not keep, possess, import into the state, sell, barter, trade, or breed the above species except for educational, research, or eradication or control purposes. Facilities that meet the requirements for the possession of Prohibited species as described in Rule 68-5.007, F.A.C., may apply for an FWC Conditional/Prohibited/Nonnative Species Permit for these uses.

3) Persons who desire to hold live green iguanas, tegus, or other reptile species currently listed as "Conditional" during eradication and control activities shall obtain a Conditional/Prohibited/Nonnative Species Permit as described in Rule 68-5.007, F.A.C. with a specific authorization for that purpose.

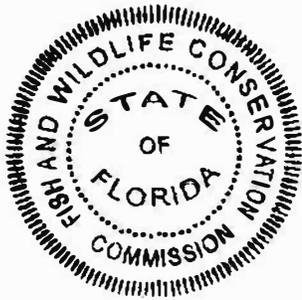
4) License holders who had valid licenses on June 30, 2020 that allow for commercial use of species listed in 1) a-i above will have until 90 days after new rules are established to liquidate current inventories of those species or place them with facilities that will continue to qualify under a valid license or permit for educational or research purposes unless they obtain a permit pursuant to paragraph 2 or 6. Breeding the above listed species for commercial sale as defined in 379.372, F.S., after June 30, 2020 is prohibited. Commercial sale after that time is prohibited.

5) Red-eared sliders will continue to be regulated as described in section 68-5.004(3), F.A.C. until

superseded by subsequent rule.

- 6) A person, party, firm, association, or corporation which held a valid captive wildlife class III exhibition or sale license on January 1, 2020, with a documented inventory of green iguanas or tegu lizards on their 2019 application, may obtain a limited exception commercial use Conditional/Prohibited/Nonnative Species Permit to allow them to continue to exhibit, sell, or breed green iguanas or tegu lizards commercially for as long as the person, party, firm, association, or corporation retains appropriate and active licensure. Such status is void upon any license transfer or lapse. The limited exception permitholder may only sell such inventory of green iguanas or tegu lizards outside of this state and may not import the species into Florida.
- 7) An individual who possessed green iguanas or tegu lizards in personal possession prior to July 1, 2020 may obtain a permit for Prohibited species for personal use by FWC to lawfully possess that animal for the remainder of its life. Individuals holding these animals as personal pets will have 90 days after new rules are established to obtain a Prohibited species for personal use permit for those animals. If an animal remains alive following the death or dissolution of the licensee, the animal may be legally transferred to another entity holding a permit authorizing possession of the animal for the remainder of the life of the animal. No new or additional green iguanas or tegu lizards may be acquired after July 1, 2020 for personal use. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, no person shall possess tegus or green iguanas as personal pets, except those meeting the requirements for possession of Prohibited species for personal use described in 68-5.007(4), F.A.C.
- 8) All other provisions of Chapter 68-5 and 68A-6, F.A.C., shall remain in full force and effect.
- 9) This order shall take effect on July 1, 2020 and shall remain in effect until rescinded or superseded by subsequent order or rule.

AUTHORITY: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution; 379.372, F.S.



Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2020.

Eric Sutton  
Executive Director

Attest   
Agency Clerk

/s/ Quilla Miralia  
Approved as to form and legal sufficiency