

BACKGROUND REPORT  
DRAFT RULE Rules Relating to Reptiles - 68A-25.002, F.A.C.  
Agenda Item 8B  
July 23, 2020

Summary of revised language: Incorporates Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for Suwannee cooter and delisted Keys species (Lower Keys populations of the peninsula ribbonsnake, red rat snake, and striped mud turtle) into Rule 68A-25.002, F.A.C.

Proposed changes to other sections of this rule are addressed in Agenda Item 8C (Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines).

**CHAPTER 68A-25  
RULES RELATING TO REPTILES**

**68A-25.002 General Provisions for Taking, Possession and Sale of Reptiles.**

(1) through (5) No change.

(6) Turtles.

(a) Take and possession – For turtles not listed in chapter 68A-27, F.A.C., the following restrictions control the take or possession unless authorized in the Commission’s Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines, hereby incorporated by reference and available at the following links: Alligator Snapping Turtles, *Macrochelys suwanniensis*, *M. apalachicola*, and *M. temminckii*, (effective September 2018 and hereby incorporated by reference at (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-10418>); Lower Keys populations of peninsula ribbonsnake, *Thamnophis sauritus sackenii*, red rat snake, *Pantherophis guttatus*, and striped mud turtle, *Kinosternon baurii*, effective July 2020 (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-xxxx>\*); Suwannee cooter, effective July 2020 (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-xxxx>\*).

1. through 8. No change.

(b) through (c). No change.

(7) through (12). **For proposed changes to this section, please see Agenda Item 8C (Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines).**

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.303, 379.304, 379.3012, 379.3751, 379.372, 379.3761, 379.3762 FS. History—New 8-1-79, Amended 6-4-81, 6-21-82, 7-1-83, 7-1-84, 7-1-85, Formerly 39-25.02, Amended 6-1-86, 5-10-87, 10-8-87, 4-13-88, 2-14-89, 7-1-89, 7-1-90, 4-14-92, 4-1-96, 9-15-96, 4-12-98, 7-1-99, Formerly 39-25.002, Amended 4-30-00, 3-30-06, 5-18-06, 6-7-07, 10-23-08, 7-20-09, 8-19-14, 1-11-17, 5-7-19,\_\_\_\_\_.*

**NOTE: Staff is requesting Commission approval to advertise the proposed amendment and file for adoption as soon as possible. If the rule amendment is approved for both advertisement and final adoption, Commission staff will file the rule for adoption as allowed by s. 120.54(3) Florida Statutes, without further public hearing.**

\*The PDF of these draft guidelines can be found at <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/species-guidelines/>. The final hyperlink to the Commission-approved guidelines will be inserted into the final rule.