

**Background Report**  
**Alligator snapping turtle Biological Review Group Members Imperiled Species Management**  
**Plan**  
**Agenda Item 4 B**  
**June 23, 2015**

Staff recommended Biological Review Group members that are to be designated by the Commission per Chapter 68A-27.0012, F.A.C., include the following:

**Dr. Dale Jackson, Ph.D.** received his Ph.D. degree in Zoology from the University of Florida and his B.S. degree in Zoology from Eastern Illinois University. As FNAI's longest-tenured staff member, Dr. Jackson helped to found FNAI in 1981 and was instrumental in ushering the program through the successes and challenges of its early years. Since moving southward from Illinois to pursue graduate studies, he has spent 37 years studying and conserving Florida's herpetofauna, with research emphasis on freshwater turtles, and has published more than 60 scientific papers and book chapters. At FNAI he serves as a Senior Research Zoologist overseeing database development for amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates and is a principal participant in our FNAI's advisory role to the Florida Forever land acquisition program.

**Dr. Peter A. Meylan** received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. He is a Professor of Biology at Eckerd College in Saint Petersburg, FL. His research interests include the evolutionary history, ecology, and conservation biology of amphibians and reptiles, especially turtles. Current research includes 2 sea turtle projects: an investigation of the ecology and migrations of sea turtles of Bocas del Toro Province, Panama (funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society) and the Bermuda Turtle Project, which is a cooperative project with the Bermuda Aquarium and the Caribbean Conservation Corporation (as well as continuing to work with Florida freshwater turtles with the Eckerd Herpetology Club on the Rainbow River). He has many scientific articles on turtles and is the editor of a book on the biology and conservation of Florida turtles.

**Paul E. Moler** received his M.S. in Zoology from the University of Florida in 1970 and his B.A. in Biology from Emory University in 1967. He retired in 2006 after working for 29 years as a herpetologist with FWC, including serving as administrator of the Reptile and Amphibian Subsection of the Wildlife Research Section. He has conducted research on the systematics, ecology, reproduction, genetics, and conservation biology of a variety of herpetofaunal species in Florida, with primary emphasis on the biology and management of endangered and threatened species. He served as Chair for the Florida Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals in 1992-94, Chair of the Committee on Amphibians and Reptiles since 1986, and editor of the 1992 volume on amphibians and reptiles. Paul has more than 90 publications on amphibians and reptiles.

**Travis Thomas** received his M.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resources Conservation from the University of Florida. Travis was hired by FWC in 2008, and he has worked on numerous projects concerning reptile and amphibian ecology. He has published several notes on the ecology and distribution of reptiles and is currently a co-author on a study of the ecology of *M. temminckii* in O'Leno State Park, as well as the primary author on a study of the taxonomy of *M. temminckii*.

**Kevin M. Enge** received his M.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida and B.S. degrees in Wildlife and Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He is currently an Associate Research Scientist in the Reptile and Amphibian Subsection of the Wildlife Research Section, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). He has worked for FWC since 1989, serving as a nongame survey and monitoring biologist and the Herp Taxa Coordinator. He has conducted numerous surveys of both native and exotic amphibians and reptiles, and he has published >60 scientific papers and 25 reports.