

Hi Folks –

Don't just forward emails about conservation, write one! The Wildlife Resources Commission is proposing to set a limit on the number of snapping turtles, mud turtles, and musk turtles that can be collected annually in North Carolina. The Commission is to be congratulated in proposing that limits be set, as currently there are none. There is concern among biologists and conservationists, however, that the annual limit is too high (100). NC Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NC PARC) recommends that the annual limit be set at 10.

The Proposed Turtle Regulations read as follows:

**N36.** Clarify language in the current collection license regulation to specify that an individual can collect less than five reptiles and less than 25 amphibians without a license ANNUALLY. Also, set a limit on the number of snapping turtles a licensed individual can collect within a calendar year to 100 turtles, but no more than 10 per day. Apply these same limits to mud and musk turtles (10/day, 100/year).

**Justification:** This regulation change will allow people with collection licenses to continue to collect the above turtles without allowing for largescale commercial exploitation.

(<http://www.ncwildlife.org/>, Proposed Regulations, page 18)

Please consider attending a public hearing in your district (see attached). If you cannot attend a meeting, please submit comments online, by clicking on [Submit a comment online](#). Comments must be received by February 1, 2008. Comments submitted online should be just as valid as those delivered at the meeting.

Consider the following points:

- Rapidly changing demographic in NC has resulted in increasing numbers of people eating turtle meat.
- Other states have restricted turtle harvests so there is more pressure on turtle populations in states where there are lenient limits of take allowed or there are no limits.
- The biology of turtles does not support large numbers of take. Turtles are
  - late to reach sexual maturity compared with many game species (including white-tailed deer, otter, gray squirrel, wild turkey, Northern bobwhite, and black bear)
  - long-lived and thus depend on high survivorship of adults
  - recruit few individuals annually
  - large numbers of reproductive adults are lost due to road-kill