



Midwest State Turtle Harvest Regulations



State	Type of Harvest	Permit	Species harvested	Season	Size Restrictions	Bag limit	Total Possession limit	Methods of harvest	Restrictions	Unusual Additions	Source	Reviewed (person date)
Illinois	Game	Sport Fishing	All except Endangered or Threatened Species	Year Round	None	8 (of each species)	16 (of each species)	Hand, landing net, or hook and line	No collection in nature preserves or other protected refuges	None	http://www.dnr.state.il.us/fish/Digest/09Digest.pdf	Scott Ballard IL Dept. Natural Resources Natural Heritage Biologist/Herpetologist 15 October 2009
	Commercial Non-Game	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	None		
Indiana	Game	Hunting or Fishing License	Game: Common Snapping Turtle, Spiny and Smooth Softshells.	Year Round	None No collection of eggs	Game: 25	Game:50	None specified	Turtle traps may be used but may not have an opening below the water surface. Sale of turtles is prohibited	None	http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/files/fw-2009FG_lo.pdf Administrative codes; 312 IAC 9-5-6 D and 312 IAC 9-5-7	Sarabeth Klueh Indiana Department of Natural Resources Herpetologist, Wildlife Diversity Section 31 August 2009
	Commercial Non-Game	Hunting or Fishing License	Non-Game: any non-endangered, Non-game species excluding Box Turtles.	Year Round	None No collection of eggs	NA	Non Game:4	None specified	No Collection from DNR lands Sale of turtles is prohibited	None		
Iowa	Game	Sport Fishing License	Common Snapping Turtles, Painted, and Softshells	Year Round	None	No	100lbs live or 50lbs dressed	You can take turtles only by hand, turtle hook, turtle trap or hookand- line. Turtle traps must have no more than one throat or funneling device.	If you are a nonresident of Iowa you can only take common snapping turtles, softshells and painted turtles from the Missouri, Mississippi and Big Sioux rivers. All turtle traps must have a functional escape hole provided with a minimum diameter in all directions of 7-1/2 inches to allow passage of fish and small turtles. On hoop type traps the 7-1/2 inch escape hole shall be located in the last hoop to the tail-line. Any unattended gear used to take turtles must have a metal tag bearing the owner's name and address. All turtle traps must be lifted and emptied of their catch at least once every 72 hours.	None	http://www.iowadnr.gov/cs/files/542-0256.pdf	Scott Gritters Iowa DNR-Fisheries Biologist 8 July 2009
	Commercial	Commercial license	Same as Game	Same as Game	Same as Game	Same as Game	None	Same as Game	Non residence are restricted to Boarder rivers of Mississippi, Missouri, Big	NA		

									Sioux and Des Moines			
	Non-Game	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Kansas	Game	Fishing Licence	Common Snapping Turtle, Soft-Shelled Turtles	1 January through 31 December	None	8 Single species of combination	24 Single species or combination	Legal equipment and methods for taking common snapping turtle and softshelled turtles shall be the following: Hand, hook and fishing line, set line, hand dip net, seine, turtle trap; and, gig. Artificial light and boats may be used while taking turtles			http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/index.php/new/s/Fishing/Fishing-Regulations/Turtles	Mark Van Scoyoc Stream Monitoring Program Coordinator Education, Exhibition, Collection, & Salvage Permits KS Department of Wildlife & Parks 25 Feb 2010
	Commercial	Prohibited										
	Non-Game	Hunting License	Non-Game species Box turtles are protected from sale, and no more than 5 can be possessed.	Year Round			5 of any one species	NA			http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/index.php/new/s/Hunting/Hunting-Regulations/General-Information/Reptiles-Other-Species	
Michigan	Game	Fishing License	Snapping and Softshell	Snapping and Softshell July 15 -September 15 All other turtles (except Blanding's, wood, box, and spotted) year round	Snapping 13 inch minimum carapace length. Softshell None.	2 in combination (no more than 1 of each species)	4 in combination (no more than 2 of each species)	Hand, Trap, Seines up to 12 X 4 feet, had net, or hook and line	Set lines may not be used to take turtles	None	http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/full-no-ads_272056_7.pdf	Thomas M. Goniea, Biologist FISHERIES DIVISION, MDNR 25 August 2009
	Commercial	Prohibited										
	Non-Game	Fishing License	All other turtles (painted, musk, map, red-eared slider)	Year Round No collection of Blanding's, wood, box, and spotted without Cultural and Scientific Collector's Permit	None	no more than 2 turtles and no more than 1 of any one turtle species	no more than 4 turtles and no more than 2 of any one turtle species	Same as Game	NA	NA		
Minnesota	Non-commercial	Fishing License Recreational Turtle License (if traps used)	Snapping, Spiny Softshell, and Western Painted Turtle	Year round except: Snapping May and June, Spiny Softshell June 1 - July 15	Snapping minimum 12in, Spiny softshell minimum 12in, and Western painted turtle maximum 5.5in, except for turtle races then minimum 4in	Snapping =3,	Snapping =3,	Angling or hand Traps require recreational turtle license	Harvest by explosives, drugs, poisons, spears, bows, lime, and other harmful substances is prohibited	Retail customers do not need a turtle license and residents under age 18 may take, possess, rent or sell up to 25 turtles for use in a non-profit turtle race. Cannot operate more than 3 traps with a recreational licence	http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/fishing/index.html https://webhr12.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/rules/?id=6256.0500	Krista Larson Nongame Research Specialist Ecological Resources Division Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources 18 Dec 2009
	Commercial	Turtle Seller's License	Same as Non-commercial	Same as Non-commercial	Same as Non-commercial	No	No	Trap, Hook, Net, other approved gear	Same as Non-commercial	Cannot operate more than 40 submerged Traps		
	Non-Game	Fishing License, Research Permit	Species not listed as Endangered or Threatened	NA	NA	Western Painted up to 25 for turtle races.	Western Painted up to 25 for turtle races.	NA	NA			
Missouri	Game	Fishing License	Common	Snapping =	None	10 Total	20 total	Methods: Snagging,	No Traps	None	http://www.sos	Jeff Briggler

			snapping turtles , Smooth Softshell, and Spiny Softshell	Year round Soft-shelled = July 1 - December 31		Common Snapping Turtles=5 Softshell Turtles=5	Twice the bag limit	snaring, grabbing, bow, crossbow, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line, hand, handnet or pole and line			.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3c10-6.pdf	Herpetologist Missouri Department of Conservation 26 April 2010		
Commercial	Commercial Fishing License	Same as Game		Year round	None	None	None	Hoop Nets	Only in Mississippi, Missouri, and boundary waters with Arkansas on St. Francis Rivers	None	http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3C10-10.pdf			
Non-Game	None	All species of turtles except for endangered turtles, Alligator Snapping Turtles, and game species		Year Round	None	NA	5 total Single species or combination	NA	Residents of Missouri only; Only can possess up to 5 specimens for educational purposes; No collecting on public lands; Sale of turtles is prohibited	None	http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3C10-9.pdf			
Nebraska	Game	Fishing License	Snapping Turtles	Year Round	None	10	20	Hand, hand net, hook - and -line, bow-and-arrow, or gaff hook,	No Traps	None	http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/fishing/guides/fishguide/2008FishGuide.pdf	Mike fritz 28 April 2010		
	Commercial	Not Allowed												
	Non-Game Species in Need of Conservation	No Take	False map Turtle Blanding's Turtle	No Take or Possession										
		No Permit Personal Use Only	Western Painted Turtle	Year Round	None	10	10	Any Method	None	None				
	No Permit Personal Use Only	Yellow Mud Turtle Ornate Box Turtle Smooth Softshell Spiny Softshell Red-eared Slider	Year Round	None	3	3	Any Method	None	None					
North Dakota	Game	Game	Fishing License	Snapping turtle	Year round	NA	NA	Season Limit 2	Hook and Line Only	Hook and line only	http://gf.nd.gov/regulations/fish/pdf/fish-guide.pdf	Patrick Isakson Nongame Biologist North Dakota Game and Fish Dept. 29 October 2009		
	Commercial	Commercial	Directors Permit	All species	Permit specified	NA	Permit Specified	Permit specified	Permit specified	Permit specified				
	Non-Game	Non-Game	Directors Permit	All Species	All Species	NA	Permit Specified	Permit Specified	Permit Specified	Permit Specified				
Ohio	Game	Fishing License	Snapping and softshell	from 6 p.m. the second Friday in June through April 30	None				Turtles may not be taken by shooting with a gun or crossbow, or by use of a spring or steel trap A turtle trap with mesh less than 4 inches square must have an opening at least 6 inches in diameter leading from it. Wings and leads are unlawful.	None	http://www.dnr.ohio.gov/wildlife/dow/regulations/fishing_general.aspx http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/portals/9/PDF/pub03.pdf	Ron Ollis Law enforcement administration ODNR-Division of Wildlife 22 April 2010		
	Commercial	Same as Game												
	Non-Game	Propagating License	Any non listed species	Year Round	None	NA	4 of each species	NA	Must obtain permit and be P.I.T. Tagged	none				

	Game	Same as Non-game											
	Commercial	Prohibited											
South Dakota	Non-Game	Fishing License	All species except False Map	Year Round	None	2 of each species	4 of each speices	Hook and line, legal minnow seines, gaff hooks, spears, or legal turtle trap. Traps with mesh less than 4 inches square must have an opening at least 6 inches in diameter leading from it or an entrance opening suspended at or above the water level.	Unlawful to use firearm	Fishing License	http://www.sdgame.com/Publications/FishingHandbook.pdf	Doug Backlund S. D. Dept. of Game Fish and Parks 2 March 2010	
Wisconsin	Game	Fishing, Small Game, Sports, Conservation Patron, Setline*, or Set or Bank Pole*. Existing Senior Citizen Recreational Cards also qualify	Snapping and Softshells	July 15 through November 30	12-16 Inches for snapping	NA	3 statewide. The one exception is on the Mississippi River, where the possession limit is 10 for snapping turtles and 5 for softshell turtles	hand, dip net, hook and line, set line, set or bank poles, hooking, or hoop net trap. The numbers of hoop traps that can be operated are 10 in Iowa-Wisconsin or Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary waters and 3 in all other waters of the state.	Traps must be made of stretchable fabric (e.g., nylon) and must have a minimum mesh stretch of 6 inches. No wire mesh is allowed		http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/captive/HerpsRegs.pdf	Not currently reviewed by the State	
	Commercial	Commercial License	Snapping and Softshells										
	Non-Game	Class A Captive Wild Animal Farm License	Species not listed as Endangered or Threatened	July 15 through November 30		NA	5 Individuals						