



CCITT
COLLABORATIVE TO COMBAT
THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN TURTLES

State Overview

Kerry Wixted

1



Partnerships

- Amphibian Reptile Conservation Committee (ARCC)
- Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation (PARC)
 - Collaborative to Combat the Illegal Trade in Turtles (CCITT)



2



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

AFWA ARCC

- Dave Golden (NJ); Chair
- Thomas Eason (FL); Vice-chair

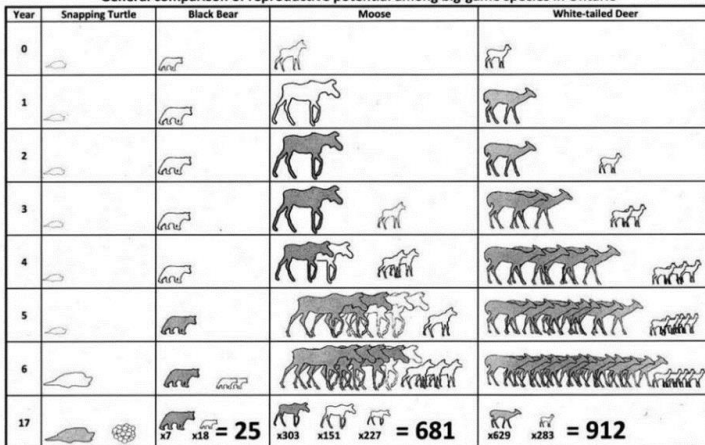
The committee seeks opportunities for increased interactions with other AFWA committees and provides guidance or assistance on cross-cutting issues involving amphibians, reptiles, or their habitats, as needed or requested.



3

Turtles are Highly Vulnerable to Overharvest.

General comparison of reproductive potential among big-game species in Ontario



Note this chart does not take mortality into consideration.
 This chart was developed by the OMNR Black Bear Technical Team in 2005 based on an original idea by George Kolenosky.
 Snapping Turtle column was added by the Ontario Multi-Species Turtle Recovery Team in 2008.
 Please note that up to 1400 eggs need to be laid by a snapping turtle before one offspring reaches maturity. This may not occur until year 50.
 = young of the year = sexually immature = sexually mature

Species	Age*	Clutch
Box turtle	4-5	3-6
Painted turtle	3-10	4-15
Spotted turtle	7-14	3-5
Snapping turtle	8-10	20-40
Wood turtle	14-20	5-15

Photo:

4

What Else Do We Know?

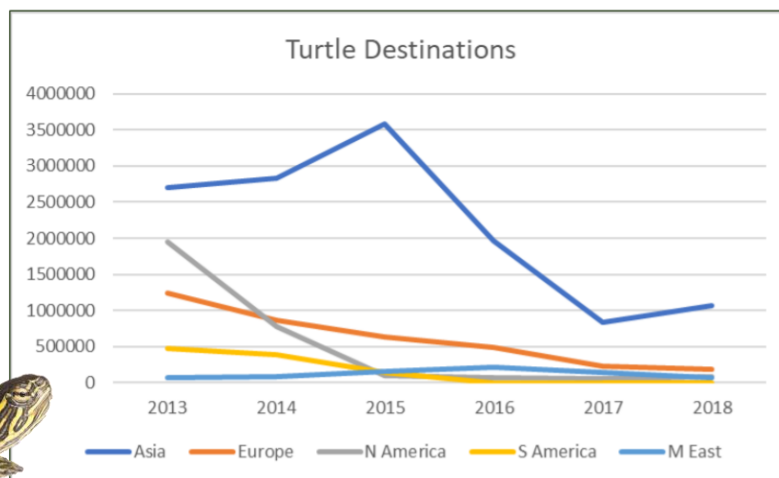
- ~ 2 million traded over 20 yrs¹
 - ~93% = Testudinidae, Geoemydidae, Emydidae, and Trionychidae
- US is important in turtle trade
 - 23% exports
 - 16% imports
- Data is incomplete/ inconsistent



1- Luiselli et al. (2016)

5

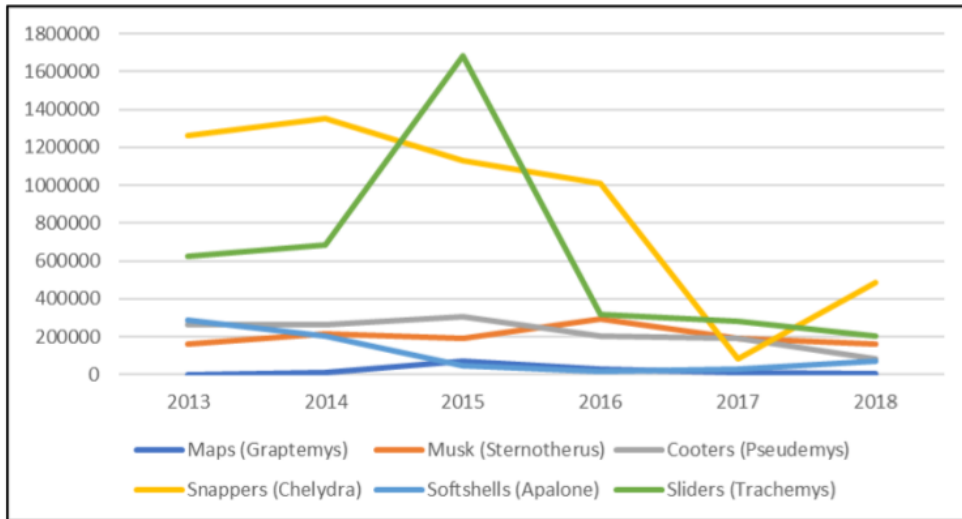
Over 18.4 million turtles were exported from the U.S from 2013 to 2018.



1- AFWA CITES Case Study (2020); # from LEMIS data

6

Demand for Certain Species Fluctuates.



7

What Else Do We Know?

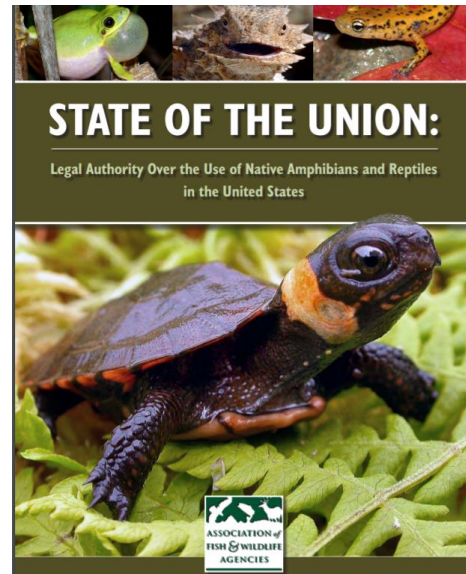
- Patchwork of regulations
 - Domestic & international
 - Not always a deterrent
- Adult females often targeted



8

State of the Union

- 2011, Nanjappa & Conrad
- Determine current:
 - laws and regulations
 - legal and regulatory approaches
 - other special protections or policies
- Identify commonalities among states, & unique or particular
- Provide a quick-reference and resource



9



Questions?

10