



Turtles 101

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Protect Our Turtles

Snapping Turtle



Painted Turtle



Blanding's Turtle



Wood Turtle



Northern Map Turtle



Ouachita Turtle (WAH-shi-tah)



False Map Turtle



Smooth Softshell



Spiny Softshell
















































- Preserve water quality
- Protect upland turtle habitat
- Leave turtles in the wild
- Do not disturb nesting turtles
- Avoid or brake for turtles if it is safe to do so
- Don't release pet turtles

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

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.

Year	Snapping Turtle	Black Bear	Moose	White-tailed Deer
0				
1				
2				 
3			 	 
4			 	 
5				 
6		 		 
17	 	  = 25	   = 681	  = 912

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.

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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

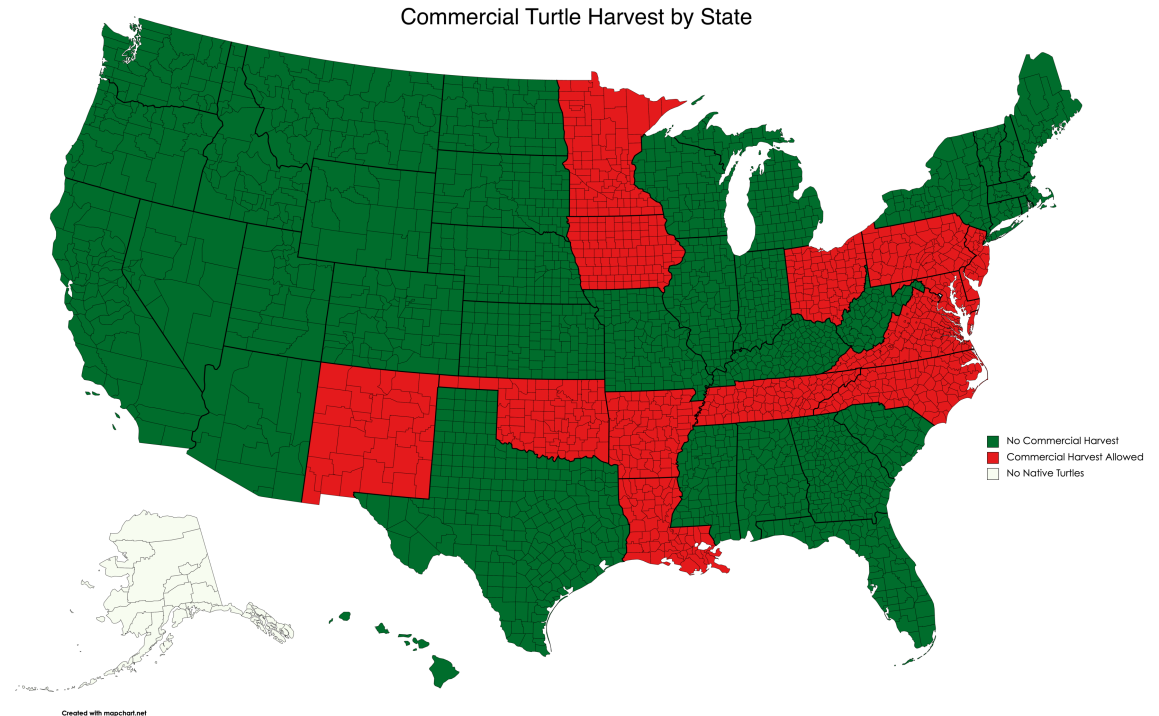
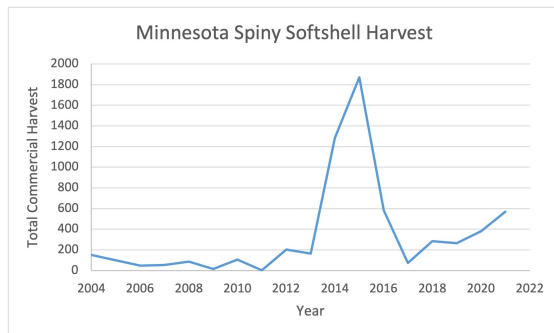
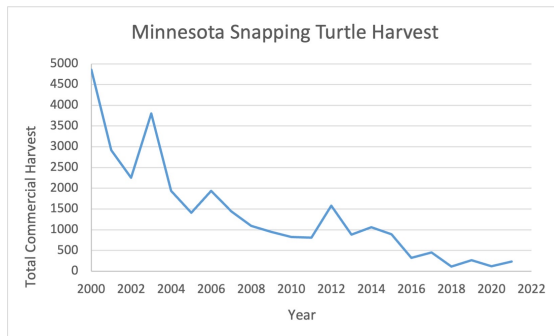
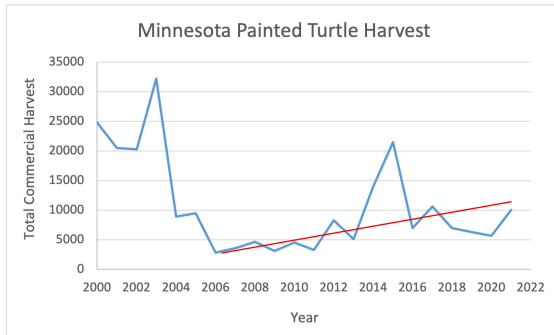
 = sexually immature

 = sexually mature

It's not just that turtles CAN live a long time, it's that they MUST live a long time...

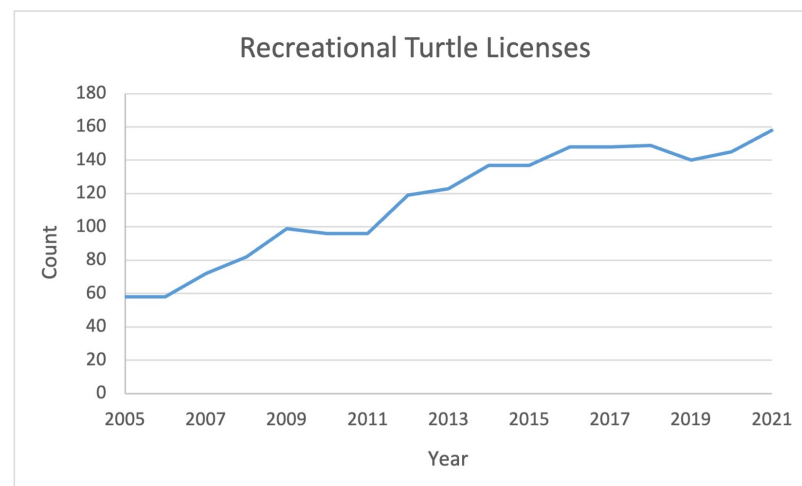
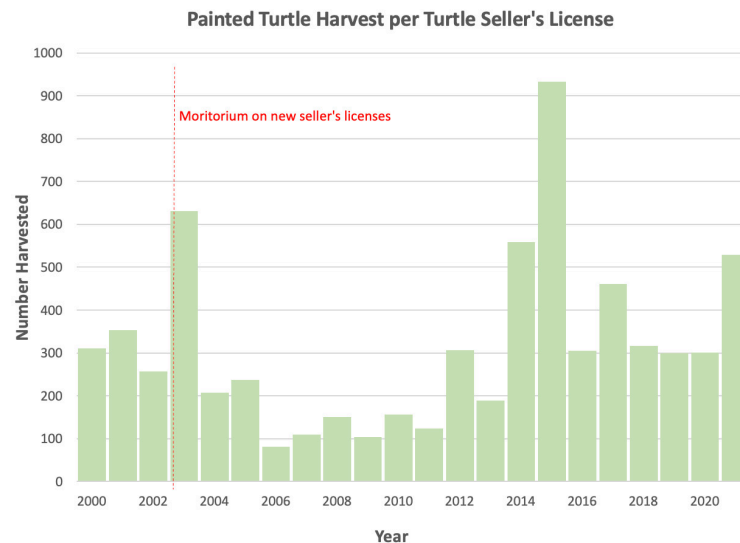
History

- Moratorium on new turtle seller's licenses early 2000s
- Turtle sellers made aware of goal to eliminate harvest
- Then Senator Bob Lessard announced to the commercial turtle harvesters in the audience that "...this is the initial step and we will eliminate commercial harvesting in the future."



Current Trends

- Commercial harvest per license increasing
- Recreational harvest license sales increasing
 - No reporting / data beyond license numbers
- Possession limits
 - Snapping Turtles: 3
 - Painted Turtles: 3
 - Spiny Softshell: Harvest eliminated as of December 1, 2021.



What the bill does:

- Eliminates commercial harvest (19 licensees remaining)

What the bill does not do:

- Prohibit recreational harvest
- Prohibit turtle races





Questions?

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